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U.S. SEEKS INCREASED OUTLAYS FOR FORCES

OW090027 Tokyo KYODO in English 0009 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO -- The United States has urged Japan to sharply increase outlays for U.S. forces stationed in Japan, citing the recent sharp decline in the dollar's value against the yen, it was learned Sunday. However, Japan holds that it cannot meet the U.S. request due to fiscal difficulties and limitations of the Japan-U.S. Status-of-Forces Agreement.

Japan plans to rebuild old U.S. forces facilities, instead of sharply increasing its share of the cost of maintaining the U.S. forces and of the cost of Japanese workers at U.S. bases.

The U.S. is expected to press its request at a Japan-U.S. security subcommittee meeting to be held in Hawaii next month.

The U.S. outlays for American forces in Japan have been leveling off at around 2.2 to 2.3 billion dollars annually since 1982. Of total spending, about 1.2 billion dollars was for wages of U.S. servicemen and Japanese workers at U.S. bases, about 700 million dollars for electricity and other public utilities charges and about 60 million dollars for construction of military facilities. The wages of Japanese workers at U.S. bases, public utilities charges and part of military construction costs are paid in yen.

As the dollar's value against the yen has declined by about 20 percent since late September, the U.S. urged Japan to increase its share of the burden. Japan has been shouldering part of expenses for maintenance of U.S. forces in Japan since 1978 and Japan's burden has been rising by about 15 percent every year. In the budget for fiscal 1986, Japan plans to appropriate about 187 billion yen for part of labor cost of Japanese workers at U.S. bases, and about 6.5 billion yen for improvement of U.S. military facilities.

U.S. DECISION ON 256K CHIPS MAY BE ILLEGAL

OW070349 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, Dec. 6 KYODO -- The U.S. Government's initiation of an antidumping investigation into imports of Japanese-made advanced computer memory chips, Friday, may violate U.S. regulations requiring prior consultations with countries involved, Japanese diplomatic sources here said.

The U.S. government is required to hold talks with a trading partner before undertaking such an investigation if it initiates a probe without waiting for complaints brought by private companies, the sources said. But such prior consultations have not been conducted between the two countries in the latest case, though bilateral consultations are under way on a separate microchip trade dispute triggered by U.S. industry complaints, they said.

They pointed to the possibility that Japanese semiconductor manufacturers will insist on the illegality of the decision.

The U.S. Commerce Department earlier announced that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has ordered the department to start an investigation into imports of Japanese-made 256-kilobit dynamic random access memory chips sold in the U.S.

MITI Regrets Dumping Charge

OW070551 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO -- The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Saturday expressed deep regret over press reports that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has made a unilateral decision to order a probe into the alleged Japanese dumping of advanced semiconductors -- 256-kilobit dynamic random access memory chips (256k drams).

Hiroshi Sugiyama, director general of MITI's Bureau of Machinery and Information Industries, said it is extremely regrettable that the U.S. Government unilaterally took such an action at a time when efforts were being made through intergovernmental negotiations to solve the semiconductor trade issue, including the price aspect.

Japanese semiconductor manufacturers also took a serious view of the U.S. presidential probe order. An executive of NEC Corp., Japan's top semiconductor maker, flatly denied the dumping allegation. The executive said, "We have never dumped the 256k drams, the 64k drams or other semiconductors on the American market."

MANSFIELD PREDICTS RENEWAL TRADE CRITICISM

OW090831 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO -- U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo Mike Mansfield warned Monday that U.S. criticism of Japan's trade policies will flare up again in February when trade statistics are due to be released. In a meeting with Susumu Nikaido, vice president of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP), Mansfield said that although U.S. criticism towards Japan has quietened down recently, there is a danger that it would reappear following the announcement of concrete trade figures next February.

The U.S. ambassador called for tariff reductions on U.S. plywood and increased imports of U.S. agricultural products in order to correct the current U.S.-Japan trade imbalance in Japan's favor.

Nikaido, who met with Mansfield to discuss his recent trip to the United States as an IDP delegation head, said that he hopes a bill on tariff reductions and easing the import process will be passed in the current Diet session, scheduled to run until December 14 or longer if extended.

The 1984 U.S. trade deficit stood at 123 billion dollars with Japan's share standing at 36.8 billion dollars. According to economic forecasts, Japan's trade surplus may peak at over 50 billion dollars in fiscal 1985.

CAUSES OF DEADLOCK ON U.S. LEATHER TALKS CITED

OW061321 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO -- A high U.S. official said Friday the proposal of Japan to move to a tariff quota system for leather and leather footwear does not improve access to the Japanese market and the U.S. will ask for compensation measures. Michael Ely, economic minister counsel of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, said at a press conference that the U.S. had asked Japan to offer "compensating imports" of 277 million dollars while the Japanese side offered only 100 million dollars.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter and Vice International Trade and Industry Minister for International Affairs Kazuo Wakasugi held seven rounds of talks in Washington to settle a leather trade dispute but were unable to reach an agreement.

Ely said the U.S. wanted Japan to make further concessions as it did not take immediate retaliatory measures against Japan based on section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. The section authorizes President Ronald Reagan to take retaliatory measures against "unfair trade practices" by Japan in maintaining an import quota system on leather and leather footwear.

Japan and the U.S. agreed to open talks in Geneva next week on Japan's compensation measures in return for moving to a tariff quota system based on article 28 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In the meantime, a high MITI official who attended the deadlocked Washington talks said Japan and the U.S. were most divided on assessing the possible loss of the U.S. due to Japan's import quota system for leather and leather footwear.

Heiichi Hamaoka, director general of MITI's consumer goods industries bureau, said the two countries were also widely divided on assessing the current size of Japan's market for leather and leather footwear. Speaking at a press conference immediately after his return from the U.S., Hamaoka said MITI would not be able to accept compensation measures for increasing imports which exceeded its assessment of U.S. market loss based on the overall market size for leather and leather footwear.

Hamaoka said the U.S. side should have understood that it is impossible for Japan to make any more concessions in the leather trade. "It is a historic step for Japan to move to a tariff quota system from an import quota system for imports of leather goods," Hamaoka said. "I hope the Geneva GATT talks will be successful."

NO AGREEMENT ON ALASKAN SALMON REACHED WITH U.S.

OW070345 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, Dec. 6 KYODO -- Japan and the United States failed to reach agreement Friday after three days of talks here on ways to prevent Japanese fishing vessels operating in open seas off Alaska from inadvertently catching Alaskan-spawned salmon during fishing for Alaska pollack. However, the Japanese and U.S. delegations agreed to resume consultations here on December 18. The problem arises from salmon straying into Japanese nets while the boats are fishing for their main haul of Alaska pollack.

Hiroya Sano, director general of the Japanese Fisheries Agency, told reporters here after the talks that negotiations have made progress. He indicated that every effort will be made to reach a settlement by the end of this month. The official refused any further comment on the talks, the fourth round in a series.

According to Japanese delegation sources, however, some technical problems remain to be agreed on. They mainly concern the possible readjustment of the season and grounds for Japanese fishing for non-Alaskan salmon in the northern Pacific, a proposed reduction in the number of Japanese fishing vessels allowed to operate in the waters, and stricter supervision.

Alaskan fishermen say the number of salmon caught in Alaskan rivers has decreased sharply in recent months, and attribute the decreases mainly to Japanese catches of Alaskan-spawned salmon in open seas off Alaska. Japanese data show that about 400,000 Alaskan-spawned salmon are accidentally caught annually by Japanese ships, but the U.S. side claims the number runs at one to two million.

S. KOREAN DELEGATION VISITS CHITOSE AIR BASE

OW61235 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Sapporo, Dec. 6 KYODO -- A 3-member parliamentary delegation from South Korea visited Japan's Air Self-Defense base at Chitose in Hokkaido for two hours Friday afternoon, officials said. Yi Han-tong, a leading figure in Korea's Democratic Justice Party (DJP) of President Chon Tu-hwan, led the delegation.

After a briefing, Yi and two other Korean National Assembly members inspected F-15 fighters on scramble alert, Nike missiles and other up-to-date equipment for air defense. "I'm impressed with the staff, who work hard even in this severe environment," Korean defense expert Yi said. The South Korean delegation was invited by Japan's ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) as part of its worldwide parliamentary exchange programs, officials said.

ABE SAYS LOAN DOES NOT MEAN SUPPORT OF MARCOS

OW061301 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Friday that the Japanese Government's scheduled loan of 49.5 billion yen to the Philippines is to help and stabilize that country's economy and not to support the Marcos Administration. Speaking before the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee, Abe said, "We are not giving the loan with an eye on the presidential election (in the Philippines) scheduled for February."

Abe made his remarks in response to socialist Takako Doi who said that the loan will eventually mean support of the Marcos Administration and should therefore not be provided. Notes on the loan will be exchanged later this month between the two countries, Abe said. "The world (?will be) watching what will happen in the presidential election. We hope for a fair and free election," Abe said.

ABE REVEALS POLICY TO URGE UNESCO REFORM

OW060401 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO -- Britain's withdrawal from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is disappointing, but Japan will stay in the organization and continue to work for its reform, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Friday.

Britain announced its withdrawal from UNESCO Thursday. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had given notice about a year ago that the United Kingdom would pull out of UNESCO unless the agency changed operations which Britain regarded as "inefficient, over-politicized and hostile to the West."

"Japan had sent a letter to British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, requesting them not to quit UNESCO and asking instead that they should remain members and work for reform. I feel sorry about the withdrawal," Abe said at a press conference after a cabinet meeting. "But we think some of Japan's views about UNESCO reform have been accepted," he said in a reference to a recent UNESCO meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yoshio Hatano also said that Britain's withdrawal is understandable. "Japan will keep an eye on UNESCO reforms. Japan's attitude will be decided according to the results," Hatano added.

TALKS ON OLYMPIC COOPERATION WITH SOUTH SET

OW080440 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Lausanne, Switzerland, Dec. 7 KYODO -- Officials of North and South Korea will meet here January 8-9 to discuss whether or not they can jointly sponsor at least some events of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Samaranch said Saturday. The events may include cycling, Samaranch added. He said the Korean delegates will also look into the possibility of North Korea participation in cultural events to be held marking the international athletic meet scheduled for September 17-October 2, 1988.

IOC executive board members agreed on the subjects of discussion at the coming inter-Korean sports negotiations in a meeting held here Saturday. North Korea says the next Summer Olympics should be held under joint and equal sponsorship of the two Koreas to save the international Olympic movement from falling apart. Otherwise, Pyongyang warns socialist countries will boycott the Seoul Olympics. North Korea and many other socialist countries stayed away from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics for security reasons.

But IOC rejected the North Korean proposal as incompatible with the Olympic Charter when officials from Seoul and Pyongyang met here in October for the first inter-Korean sports talks on the 1988 games. Instead, IOC is said to have informally suggested that some events of the games be held in Pyongyang. IOC sources here said IOC executives are expected to put forward the suggestion as a formal proposal in the next session of Korean sports dialogue. In a press conference, however, Samaranch did not elaborate on the items on the agenda for the Korean sports negotiations.

PARTIES' 'STATEMENT' ON NUCLEAR WAR PREVENTION

SK090509 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA) -- Twenty one political parties and public organizations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on December 8 published a joint statement in connection with the fact that the questions of realizing nuclear disarmament and preventing a nuclear war were mainly discussed and a series of agreements were reached in principle at the Soviet-U.S. summit held in Geneva, Switzerland, recently.

The statement reads: It is today a common desire of mankind to avert the danger of a nuclear war and guarantee world peace. In conformity with this unanimous desire of all the world people, the question of achieving nuclear disarmament and preventing a nuclear war was mainly discussed and a series of agreements were reached in principle at the Soviet-U.S. summit held in Geneva, Switzerland, recently.

At the meetings both sides confirmed that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" and agreed to prevent any war between them, whether nuclear or conventional, and accelerate the negotiations to prevent an arms race in space and terminate it on earth, to limit and reduce nuclear arms and enhance strategic stability.

Considering that these principled agreements reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit will mark a precious starting point in preventing a nuclear war and promoting world peace, we, who are making consistent efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula and the world, state as follows:

We hold that these positive results achieved at the Soviet-U.S. summit should be carried into practice at the earliest possible date and expanded on a global scale and, above all, be materialised on the Korean peninsula in a short time. The Korean peninsula today is one of the areas over which the danger of a nuclear war is hanging most heavily in the world today. More than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons of all kinds are deployed in the southern land of the Korean peninsula where acute tensions persist constantly and the South Korean area along the Military Demarcation Line is the only nuclear minefield in the world. There are already deployed in South Korea even 56 neutron bombs which are rejected as "devil's weapon in the 20th century" and shipped there are a great number of "backpack nukes," the midget nuclear bombs.

South Korea is quadruple "NATO" in the density of deployment of nuclear weapons. In no other place all kinds of nuclear weapons such as nuclear missiles, nuclear mines and nuclear bombs and means of nuclear delivery are so densely distributed as in South Korea today.

As if they were not enough, it is planned to bring the strategic bombers "B-58" cruise missiles and "Pershing-2" missiles into South Korea from the United States and South Korea is being embroiled into the adventurous "star wars" programme, a space nuclear war plan. As a result, South Korea has turned today into a most dangerous hotbed of nuclear war and the Korean peninsula into a most strained and sensitive area where a nuclear war might be touched off by any casual factor. It is an urgent matter which brooks no further delay to remove the danger of a nuclear war and guarantee a durable peace on the Korean peninsula. To avert the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is a vital question on which the destiny of our Korean nation is staked and an important question directly linked with world peace and security.

If a nuclear war is to be prevented in our country, all the Koreans in the North and the South must be closely united in one body, irrespective of the difference in ideology and system, and wage a powerful nation-wide movement for the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

We Koreans are the very masters who must prevent a war and guaranteed peace on the Korean soil. If a nuclear war broke out in this land, it is we Koreans who would suffer and it is our three thousand-ri land which would be devastated.

The holocaust of the nuclear war would not discriminate between a communist and a nationalist or between the North and the South. On the ruins left by a nuclear war, no one would survive to argue about idea and system or to mull affiliation and grouping apart and it would be useless to argue about them. The difference in ideology and idea, system and religious belief must not matter in the struggle to prevent a nuclear war.

All the Koreans concerned over the survival and ruin of the nation and its future destiny must unite as one, be they in the North or in the South, be they communists or nationalists, irrespective of ideology and idea, system and affiliation, the past and the present, and determinedly turn out in a nation-wide anti-nuclear peace movement to have nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The United States must not pursue a nuclear war in any part of the world, acting in the spirit agreed upon at the Soviet-U.S. summit, not in words, but in deeds, first of all, it must take steps for withdrawal at once all its nuclear weapons and troops brought into South Korea illegally. The situation on the Korean peninsula is closely linked with the world situation as a whole and it is one of the important links for guaranteeing world peace to prevent a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

If the Korean peninsula is not peaceful, Asia and the world is not peaceful, and if a nuclear war broke out on the Korean peninsula, it might easily develop into a global thermonuclear war. We believe that the political parties and public organisations of all countries of the world and international organisations which love peace and the peaceloving forces will express firm solidarity with our people in the peace movement to prevent a nuclear war and guarantee a durable peace on the Korean peninsula. And we hope that the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings expected in the future will result in bigger strides towards world peace and have a positive effect on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and preventing a nuclear war in our country.

The Workers' Party of the Korea and all other political parties and public organisations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will actively contribute to the sacred cause of peace in Korea and the world in unity with all the political parties and groups and people of all walks of life in South Korea who love the country and the nation and desire peace in the country and its peaceful reunification and in close unity with the broad peace forces of the world.

The statement was published in joint name by the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, the Chondoist Chongu Party, the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, the General Federation of the Trade Unions of Korea, the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, the Korean Democratic Women's Union, the General Federation of Unions of Literature and Art of Korea, the Korean Journalists' Union, the General Federation of Industrial Technology of Korea, the Korean Christians Federation, the Central Guidance committee of the Chondoist Church of Korea, the Korean Buddhists Federation, the Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association, the Korean Students' Committee, the Korean Committee for Solidarity With the World People, the Korean Committee for Asian-African Solidarity and the Korean National Peace Committee.

RED CROSS SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED ON TALKS

SK070414 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0839 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Interview with Pak Yong-su, spokesman for the DPRK Red Cross delegation, entitled "The South Side Should Take a Correct Attitude Toward Dialogue" -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] You have been to Seoul with the humanitarian mission of relieving the families and relatives separated in the North and South of their misfortune and pain. I think that the talks ended with failure to attain tangible results.

[Pak Yong-su] That is right. As already reported, at the 10th round of the North-South Red Cross talks held in Seoul our side presented a draft written agreement consisting of 8 chapters and (?30) paragraphs on implementing free visits. The draft written agreement our side proposed stipulates specifically and clearly all the problems in connection with implementing free visits, including the problems to be solved through free visits, the principles that both sides should maintain in implementing free visits, and the scope of the families and relatives who are supposed to make the free visits.

The draft written agreement on free visits proposed by our side, in a word, is a written agreement which of exemplary significance in relieving the displaced families and relatives from misfortune and pain in divided countries [as heard]. The draft written agreement our side presented is a written agreement most accurately reflecting the aspirations of the fellow countrymen separated in the North and South.

As everyone knows, the families and relatives separated in the North and South in our country have not been able to meet or learn of each other's whereabouts for more than 35 years since separation. They demand that the humanitarian problems from which they suffer due to being separated be solved simultaneously -- the problems of knowing the whereabouts and identifying the addresses of families and relatives, visiting and meeting each other, exchanging correspondence, and, further, reuniting the families. I think that if the free visits proposed by us were realized, the problems whose solution is desired by the separated families and relatives would be solved simultaneously and comprehensively.

[Announcer] What about the proposal made by the South side? I think they proposed it without any significant change from the one they presented at the ninth round of talks.

[Pak] The South side did make a proposal. They presented it while only changing the order and altering the expressions of some of the contents of the proposal which they made at the ninth round of talks held in Pyongyang. As for the proposal made by the South side, it is in breach of the agreements which have already been reached by both sides, which discards the basic mission given to the full-dress talks and which can make the full-dress talks retrogress to the stage of preliminary talks. In short, we can say that the proposal made by the South side is a very unjust proposal which ignores the misfortune, pain, and aspirations of the separated families and relatives.

[Announcer] In essence, don't you think such an act represents a denial of the current talks?

[Pak] Under the circumstances in which the South side put forth such a unreasonable proposal, we again called on the South side to accept our draft agreement, proceeding from the sheer desire to comprehensively alleviate the sufferings and misfortunes of separated families and relatives at an early date.

The South side put forth such issues as the exchange of the second home-visiting groups and exchanging letters between the families and relatives who visited Pyongyang and Seoul last September, noting them as if new issues. As for these issues, it is not the time to put them forward. Such issues as exchanging the second home-visiting groups and exchanging letters are related to the agenda items for the main talks. Thus, in order to implement these issues, we should sum up the main talks by accelerating the discussion of agenda items.

[Announcer] You are right. I also think that if our draft agreement is adopted, such issues will be resolved comprehensively and easily.

[Pak] Concerning such issues, we again urged the South side to accept our draft agreement on implementing free travel put forth by our side, instead of presenting such secondary issues that have nothing to do with discussion of the basic issues so that free travel will be realized by September next year.

[Announcer] Considering the position and attitude that the South side took toward dialogue, all the fellow countrymen expressed great disappointment, not to mention of separated families and relatives.

[Pak] Yes, you are right. The South side is not interested in alleviating the sufferings and misfortunes of separated families and relatives in the North and the South. We had an impression that the South side wanted to delay things by holding the talks only nominally and implementing a partial exchange of separated families and letters, rather than comprehensively alleviating the sufferings of the separated fellow countrymen. The issue of whether the North-South Red Cross talks will be successful or not in the future totally depends on the South side's attitude.

GORBACHEV'S GENEVA SUMMIT REPORT VIEWED

SK080918 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Nov 85

[Text] According to a TASS report, a meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet was held on 26 and 27 November in the Kremlin in Moscow. The meeting was attended by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other leading cadres of the Soviet Union.

The meeting discussed and approved the drafts of the social and economic development plan and state budget for 1986. The meeting also amended the basic content of the Soviet people's education law and approved a decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. At the meeting, Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev made a report on the result of the Soviet-U.S. summit talks in Geneva and current international developments. In the report, Gorbachev, saying that under the condition in which the "star wars" plan continues, an unpredictable situation can happen, indicated that if space is militarized, the arms race can be strengthened anew qualitatively.

Referring to the dangerous nature of the present situation of the world, he said that all necessary measures should be taken in order to end the vicious circle of the arms race and in order not to miss all opportunities for turning the situation in a favorable direction. Indicating that the Soviet Union has made efforts to cooperate with many countries for peace, he said that the Soviet Union has advanced a number of peaceful initiatives, while resolutely rejecting the U.S. line to destroy the military and strategic balance. He indicated that the U.S. counterproposals advanced at the summit talks, however, were not perfect and fair ones and that they proceeded from a unilateral stand and the aim of seeking the military superiority of the United States and the NATO as a whole.

Noting that what is important is that the U.S. stand is aimed at legalizing the production of offensive-type space weapons, not at banning the production of these weapons, he said that the U.S. stand regarding the "star wars" issue constitutes a main obstacle to reaching an agreement with regard to (?arms restrictions). He said that this notwithstanding, he had made up his mind to meet the U.S. President in Geneva. This determination was a result of the fact that the Soviet Union did not have the right to disregard even the slightest opportunity for ending the dangerous trend of developments in the world.

He exposed that at the Geneva summit talks the U.S. side tenaciously insisted on the realization of its Strategic Defense Initiative plan, and said: We are realists. Therefore, we cannot but frankly say that at the current summit talks we failed to find ways to resolve most important issues related to ending the arms race. At the talks, we failed to reach a concrete agreement on the issue of arms reduction and the issue of nuclear and space weapons in particular, because the U.S. ruling circles had no intention of renouncing the "star wars" plan.

Indicating that there are big differences between the Soviet Union and the United States in terms of views on the major issues of the world situation and regional situation, comrade Mikhail Gorbachev recalled the fact that the joint statement clarified the mutual understanding that a nuclear war must not be fought and cannot be won.

Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev referred to the issue of cooperation with the Nonaligned Movement, the issue of the situation in Asia and the Pacific, and the issue of cooperation with many countries in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

The meeting discussed Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev's report and adopted a resolution on the result of the Geneva summit talks. The resolution indicated that the Soviet Union will make all possible efforts to embody the agreements reached at the Geneva summit talks in practical work and demanded that the United States also show such a responsible attitude.

WORLD REACTION TO USSR-U.S. TALKS REVIEWED

SK060418 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0700 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] According to news reports, the USSR-U.S. summit talks held in Geneva from 19 to 21 November evoked great repercussions in various foreign countries. In a joint communique issued in connection with the visit to Romania by Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the party and government leaders of the two countries expressed the full support of Romania and Poland for the constructive Soviet stand at the Geneva USSR-U.S. summit talks. Both sides noted the importance of the Geneva USSR-U.S. summit talks in ending arms race on earth, in preventing this arms race from expanding to space, and in conducting negotiations to strengthen international peace and security.

In a joint communique issued following talks held in Berlin on 26 November, Erich Honecker and Gustav Husak, the party and government leaders of the GDR and Czechoslovakia reconfirmed full support for the constructive attitude shown by the Soviet side at the Geneva talks and praised the Soviet side's effort to bring about affirmative results.

The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 22 November and said that the Chinese Government admits that it is a matter worthy of welcome that the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States desire the improvement of relations between the two countries.

The statement of the Central Committee of the U.S. Communist Party signed by Henry Winston, the national chairman of this party, and by Gus Hall, general secretary of the party, said that the USSR-U.S. summit talks held in Geneva were an important event implying the victory of underdeveloped forces and contributing to normalizing relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In a statement issued in London, Gordon McLennan, general secretary of the British Communist Party, highly appreciated the results of the Geneva USSR-U.S. summit talks. He said that the results of the talks provided conditions for holding talks between the representatives of the two countries to reach agreements on arms reduction and on other important issues. He then said that if these talks are held successfully, movements for peace and arms reduction will expand on a global scale.

In an article contributed to the 22 November edition L'UNITA an Italian newspaper ALESSANDRO NATTA, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, said that he was hopeful for talks designed to alleviate tension. He then said that those who possess reason do not expect that problems accumulated over a period of a long time will be resolved completely at the talks, but that it is important that the joint statement showed the sincere efforts of both sides to resolve problems.

In a statement issued in the 22 November edition of Bulgarian daily TRUD, RAMESH CHANDRA, chairman of the World Peace Council, said that all people who desire peace welcome the results of the USSR-U.S. summit talks and call for exerting redoubled efforts to completely remove the danger of a nuclear war.

In a statement issued on 22 November, the World Trade Unions, heartily welcoming the result of the Geneva talks, said that these talks help those concerned entertain the hope that there will be an affirmative change in the international situation.

Commenting on the result of the USSR-U.S. summit talks, the Romanian daily SCINTEIA said that the talks were good because they showed that there was a room for holding talks to resolve serious international problems. The daily said that the frank talks between the Soviet Union and the United States was, no doubt, important. The paper then demanded that the Geneva summit talks be an excellent starting point and that these talks be consolidated, strengthened, and developed. In a commentary, the Lao daily PASASON highly appreciated the Soviet Union's authority and its constructive behavior and said that this authority and behavior are very important factors for resolving basic problems.

AIR TRANSPORT PACT SIGNING WITH USSR OBSERVED

SK060504 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Pyongyang December 6 (KCNA) - Soviet Ambassador to Korea Nikolay Shubnikov gave a reception at his embassy on the evening of December 5 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of an agreement on air transport between the Korean and Soviet Governments. Invited there were Kim Yo-ung, director of the Civil Aviation Bureau, and other officials concerned. Speeches were exchanged at the reception. Prior to the reception, the attendants appreciated a Soviet film.

O CHIN-U ATTENDS NATIONAL ATHLETIC MEETING

SK010930 Pyongyang KONA in English 0851 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA) -- A national meeting of sportsmen opened at the People's Palace of Culture on November 30. The meeting will sum up shining successes and experiences attained in sports in the past days under the wise leadership of the party and discuss tasks to effect a new turn in the sports activities as a whole by thoroughly implementing the chuche-oriented sports policy of our party.

Attending the meeting were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, Hong Song-young, Chong Chun-ki and Kang Hui-won, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Paek Hak-aim, Yi Kil-song, Kim Pong-chu, Yi Yong-su, Pak Su-tong, Choe Tae-pok, Kim Yu-sun, Yun Ki-chong, Kim Pong-ul and other officials concerned and sports officials. The members of the delegation of Korean sportsmen in Japan headed by Choe In-hwa, president of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, were present.

A report was made by Vice-Premier Chong Chun-ki at the meeting. Noting that 16 years had passed since a national meeting of sportsmen was held in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, he stressed: It was a most significant period when a new history of chuche-based sports was unfolded and a fundamental turn has been effected in all domains of sports under the wise leadership of our party. The reporter said: Regarding sports as one of the powerful means of pushing ahead with the revolution and construction, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song has always directed deep attention to this work and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly indicated the road to be followed by sports in keeping with the demand of the developing reality and wisely led our sports. By indicating the line and policy of building sports in our times by applying the great chuche idea, our party provided an unswerving guiding compass to open a new phase in our sports, he noted, and continued dear Comrade Kim Chong-il gave comprehensive answers to all questions arising in the building of sports and sports activities including the question of keeping a tight grasp on sports as one of the strategic tasks of the working-class party in the building of socialism and communism, the question of generalising sports among all people by drawing broad segments of the people into it, while putting emphasis on school sports, the question of attaching primary importance to raising the ideological standard of the sportsmen, laying independent and modern material and technical foundations and rapidly developing sports technique.

Our party's idea and theory of sports developed and enriched by him are the great program of the building of revolutionary sports in our era and a sports encyclopedia of chuche. Our sports have been able to advance confidently along a most correct road in the work of building and developing modern sports with a successful application of our party's idea and theory of sports. Reviewing the proud achievements scored in sports in the past, the reporter stressed that these successes are a precious fruitage of the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Today the personnel in the domain of sports are confronted with the honourable task to generalise sports among the masses and make it an inseparable part of their daily life and effect a new turn in sports as a whole in hearty response to the plan of the party, he said, and added: The entire sportsmen and the working people should turn out as one man in energetic efforts to rapidly raise the general level of sports and lift the sports technique in different events to the world level.

The meeting continues.

SECURITY COMMAND ON ARREST OF JAPANESE SPY

DK090611 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 8 (OANA-YONHAP) -- The Defense Security Command Monday announced the arrest of a Japanese man who spied for North Korea by disguising himself as a foreign student studying at a university here. A security command announcement said Yutaka Inaba, 24, gathered state secrets, which he reported to a North Korean operative in Japan, and he attempted to incite campus disturbances and to build an underground network for his espionage activities.

The Defense Security Command has confiscated 108 items attesting to Inaba's espionage activities, including subversive literature published in North Korea, mimeographed materials, placards designed to stir up campus unrest and materials to be reported to Pyongyang. He also received a total of 4.5 million yen in operational fund on 11 occasions from North Korea.

Inaba, from Toyotahong, Saitama Prefecture, was recruited by Kim Tong-yong, 35, a Pyongyang operative in Japan in the late 1970s. He entered Korea disguised as a Japanese student in January 1980, the announcement said. Inaba entered a school identified only as "Y" university here in March 1980. Since then, he tried to win over Korean students to the North Korean cause by trying to arrange for them to study in Japan and reported to Kim developments on Korean campuses, state secrets and other activities of interest to Pyongyang. He was recently captured while trying to flee the country, apparently because he felt his real identity would be revealed, according to the announcement.

While in Seoul, Inaba collected 60 items related to anti-government demonstrations at "Y" university and anti-government materials distributed on the university campus in connection with the Kwangju incident and the students' seizure of the U.S. Cultural Center. At every vacation period, he returned to Japan to report to Kim. Inaba, currently a senior majoring in history, took a temporary leave from "Y" university. He went to Canada for another spy mission in September 1981 at Kim's directive, the announcement said. While auditing classes at Toronto University for a time, he contacted a North Korean operative in Canada and acted as a courier between him and Kim, who was in Tokyo.

His espionage activities, according to the announcement, also included making contacts with North Korean agents in Hong Kong, running errands for Kim and those based in the British colony. He made trips to Hong Kong twice as a courier, between August 1984 and January 1985.

PUSAN STUDENTS STORM LABOR MINISTRY OFFICE

SK062343 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Dec 85 p 8

[Text] Pusan (YONHAP)-- Seven Pusan National University students stormed into the branch office of the Labor Ministry here yesterday morning, but were taken away by police some 10 minutes after they seized it.

U Chong-kyun, 23, a senior, and six other collegians were said to have forced a guard at the rear door of the office at Chungbu to make way upward to the third floor. The student activists launched a sit-in protest in the conference hall with a big placard calling for the abolition of what they insisted to be an "evil" labor law.

NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE FRICTION WITH U.S. UNDERWAY

SK090243 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (OANA-YONHAP) -- South Korean and U.S. Government officials opened negotiations here on Monday in an effort to reduce the bilateral trade friction caused in part by the U.S. demand that Korea open its insurance market and protect foreign intellectual property rights. The negotiations stem from the Reagan administration's invocation in October of the so-called Section 301 of the U.S. Trade and Tariff Act, which enables the U.S. Government to take broad retaliatory measures against foreign goods if the trade practices of foreign countries are found to be unfair. The Korean and U.S. officials will hold talks on the opening of Korea's insurance industry in the conference room of the Finance Ministry, Dec. 9-10 and on the protection of intellectual property rights, including copyrights and material patents, in the conference room of the Economic Planning Board Dec. 11-12.

During similar talks held last month in Washington, the United States called for an immediate opening of the Korean insurance market. The Korean side, however, insisted that it should not open its life insurance market to foreign firms until next year, on a gradual basis, considering the underdeveloped state of Korean insurance firms. The Korean Government has already announced a schedule for the gradual opening of the Korean insurance industry over the next several years. Therefore, there will be no serious clashes over insurance issues, a government source said. There will, however, be a head-on clash over the protection of intellectual property rights because the Korean Government's plan to meet the U.S. demands is strongly opposed by Korean businesses, which contend that the protection of chemical substance patents and computer software would endanger their survival. The Korean Government plans to take legislative measures to strengthen the protection of foreign copyrights and trademarks early next year, however, the source said.

Paek Won-ku, a director general at the Finance Ministry, will lead a nine-member Korean insurance team, and Pak Chong-Pu, a director general at the Economic Planning Board's International Economic Policy Council (IEPC) will head Korea's intellectual property rights team. The nine-member U.S. delegation is headed by Sandra Kristoff, a deputy assistant of the U.S. Trade Representative Office.

Korea and the United States are expected to reach an agreement on the opening of Korea's insurance market and the protection of intellectual property rights before Christmas, when Kim Ki-hwan, IEPC director general, is scheduled to visit Washington, the source added.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO U.S. ON TRADE PRESSURE

SK060341 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] It has been disclosed that the government has recently sent a letter of protest to the U.S. Administration in connection with the continued U.S. pressure on the opening of Korean markets. In the letter, the ROK Government is reported to have said: No one will benefit from the series of U.S. steps exerting pressure on the opening of markets, and a means of pressure cannot open the Korean markets. In an information entitled "The Recent Trade Steps of the U.S. Administration: Are They the Best Approach to Free and Fair Trade?," which it unofficially sent to the U.S. Administration through the U.S. Embassy in Seoul late last month, the ROK Government held that, if the U.S. Government demands the opening of markets by exerting pressure, this will only hamper the ROK Government's plan for liberalization.

This letter of protest is noteworthy, because it was prepared and sent to the U.S. Government in a form of refutation against the information entitled "The South Korean Market Has Not Been Opened, and the U.S. Market Has Not Been Closed," which the U.S. Embassy in Seoul sent to the various circles in South Korea early last November.

The 11-page letter of protest was worked out by the International Economic Policy Council of the ROK Economic Planning Board. In the letter, the ROK Government said: Economic experts hold that the U.S. trade deficit is attributable to the extreme deficit in the financial operation of the U.S. Government, the low savings rate, the high dollar evaluation, and the reduction in the competitiveness of U.S. industries.

The ROK Government charged that an act of driving a trade partner into a corner with what is basically an internal problem of the United States is not right. The ROK Government noted that, in the stand of a weak country, power pressure is sometimes regarded as "aggression" or "interference" and that the Korean people take such a pressure very sensitively, because of their past experience of being dominated by a foreign country. The ROK Government said that, accordingly, the attitude of the U.S. Embassy in South Korea trying to solve problems by preparing and distributing a printed material directly criticizing the trade policy of South Korea and its public opinion is a dangerous way of approach, and that the United States has disturbed a most sensitive nerve of the Korean personality.

Noting that "Korea ranks fourth in the world in foreign debt and its trade deficit is continuing, and the burden of its defense expenditure is excessive, thus causing it to suffer political and economic restrictions," the Government revealed that "another grave restriction is the political opinion opposing the Government's plan to open its markets." The Government explained that such opposing public opinion was not "fabricated" by the ROK Government as judged by the U.S. Government but was generated by the past experience of having been dominated by foreign countries and by the feeling of uneasiness that a foreign country may control the direction of Korea's economy. Referring to the unjust trade policy of the U.S. Government, the letter of protest pointed out that "considerable import restrictions are being applied to U.S. markets and that many of these restrictions can hardly be removed in the near future." For example, even though Korea's iron and steel products including marine structures, were not found to have violated the act of fair transactions the United States subjected them to anti-dumping duty and compensation tariff. Of all items exported to the United States, 37 percent of such goods are being exported under restrictions.

The letter also noted that the assessment of 64.8 percent of antidumping tariff on Korean-made albums is "a sentence of guilt" handed down without reviewing the documents prepared by the defendant (the Korean business circles,) "not in accordance with the U.S. legal tradition." The letter also criticized that this judgment was made not in accordance with the spirit of the law but with the articles of the law and that it was a wild judgment that ignored political reaction and arouses moral suspect." However, the letter concluded by stating that "the ROK Government is gradually approaching a position similar to the Reagan administration," and stressed its sympathy for the U.S. Administration which opposes protectionist trade bills of the U.S. Congress.

The letter revealed that "the ROK Government is also resisting the demands of domestic business circles for a legal bill on protectionism." Noting that "the reasonable and efficient attitude which the United States should take under such circumstances is to quietly negotiate ways to resolve the issue of trade dispute between the two countries," the letter said that "through such negotiations, the United States will achieve better results and create conditions on which it will be able to push ahead with the import liberalization policy toward Korea." Thus, it proposed quiet, just, and closed-door negotiations.

THAI 'VIOLATIONS' PROTESTED, MINE PLANTING DENIED

BK061406 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Dec 85

[6 December Foreign Ministry statement]

[Text] Despite protests from the PRK, Thai authorities continue to intensify their violations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia. From 26 to 30 November, Thai L-19's and A-37's aircraft intruded many times into Cambodian air-space to spy on areas in the border provinces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, and Battambang. The most serious case was a reconnaissance flight by a Thai A-37 aircraft on 30 November between 1540 and 1555 local time over the sector between Anlung Veng and the mountains north and northeast of Siem Reap Province, an area 90 km inside Cambodia.

During the same period, Thai artillery lobbed hundreds of shells on Road 56, north-western Pailin, and the area southwest of Phnum Malai.

These blatant violations by the Thai Armed Forces clearly show that the Thai authorities, following after the Beijing Chinese expansionist-hegemonists in collusion with the U.S. imperialists to oppose Cambodia's revival, do not hesitate to carry out deliberately and intentionally hostile activities against the PRK to support the Pol Pot remnant forces and assist them in carrying out terrorist activities against the Cambodian people.

Everyone knows that the current campaign in Bangkok on the so-called dry season offensive by the Cambodian Armed Forces and the recent slanders by Thai military authorities that the Cambodian Armed Forces and the Vietnamese volunteer soldiers have planted mines on Thai soil are aimed only at covering up the innumerable and repeated violations of the PRK's territorial integrity by Thailand itself in support of the infiltration and terrorist activities of the Pol Pot remnants in Cambodia.

The PRK Foreign Ministry categorically rejects the slanders of the Thai authorities and strongly condemns their violations of Cambodian territory. The Thai authorities should put an immediate end to these actions and should be fully responsible for all consequences resulting from their activities.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 6 December 1985.

PRACHEACHON VIEWS PRC-CGDK MEETING IN BEIJING

BK071116 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0444 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Phnom Penh, 6 Dec (SPK) -- "The meeting planned for 7 to 10 December between the Beijing bigwigs and the leaders of the Cambodian reactionary groups is part of the Chinese maneuvers against the rebirth of the Cambodian people," said the commentary of the bi-weekly PRACHEACHON in its Friday issue.

The paper of the Central Committee of the KPRP noted that the meeting, involving Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang, and Li Xiannian on the one hand and Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan on the other, is also aimed at increasing confrontation in the region.

The paper continued: "The meeting comes at a time when the Khmer reactionaries, especially the Polpotists, meet with one setback after another, with all their hideouts along the Cambodian-Thai border almost completely wiped out, when the crimes of the Pol Pot group have caused it and its patrons to become more and more isolated, when world public opinion, with the exception of China -- Pol Pot's godfather -- is demanding that this group be excluded from any settlement, and when the trend is for a political settlement which in turn will help solve the remaining problems so as to turn South-east Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation."

The paper went on: "It is easy to see that the meeting shows the failure of the Chinese expansionists in their opposition to the PRK and their isolation due to their policy of confrontation in Southeast Asia. Despite all of that, China continues stubbornly to use the Cambodian reactionaries and to instigate the Thai ruling circles to oppose the young republic. Massive arms supplies recently provided by China for Thailand, revealed by Thai newspapers, clearly prove this all the more," the bi-weekly noted. But the 'Great Han' policy of Chinese expansionism and its collusion with U.S. imperialism against the PRK and the trend for dialogue in this region is doomed to failure," the paper concluded.

PAPER CONDEMNS U.S., CHINESE AID TO KHMER

OW080510 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1440 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 7 -- Beijing, Washington and Bangkok are the main forces in the undeclared war against the People's Republic of Kampuchea as exposed in the white book issued by the PRK Foreign Ministry on December 4. These forces work together in fostering and urging Khmer rebels and giving them sanctuaries on Thai soil as launching pads for infiltrations into Kampuchean territory, comments the bi-weekly PRACHEACHON in its latest issue.

At the same time, the paper of the party Central Committee says, they wage a war of sabotage in all fields, economic, political, diplomatic, and psychological, with the aim of weakening and eventually overthrowing the PRK and increasing confrontation in the region. The Beijing expansionists and their henchmen, notwithstanding their heavy defeats, particularly along the Kampuchean-Thai border in the 1984-85 dry season, obstinately continue their dark designs on the PRK, the paper notes.

For their part, the paper [word indistinct], the U.S. imperialists keep colluding with the Chinese expansionists in assisting the Khmer reactionaries through the so-called humanitarian aid, most recently they granted five million dollars to the Khmer traitors. More serious still, the paper points out, the United States has increased aid to Thailand to 110 million dollars and conducted a joint U.S.-Thai (?maneuver named) "Golden Cobra" in the Gulf of Siam with the aim of dampening the spirit of the people and armed forces of Kampuchea. The United States also plans to reopen military bases in Thailand in case of [word indistinct]," the paper adds. It points out, however, that the valiant struggle waged by the Kampuchean people with the support of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army has gone from victory to [word indistinct] victory, foiling the undeclared war of the enemy.

"The collusion between the Chinese expansionists and the U.S. imperialists, however dangerous it may be, cannot hinder the advance of the Kampuchean revolution. The victories of the Kampuchean people in the past seven year prove futility of the enemy's undeclared war," the paper remarks. [sentence as received]

It concludes by saying: "Having experienced genocide under Pol Pot and now facing an undeclared war, the Kampuchean people have no other aspiration than to live in peace, independence and freedom to rebuild their country. The PRK, together with the SRV, has put forth many reasonable proposals to join other concerned parties in solving the problem through dialogue and other peaceful means so as to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, [word indistinct] and cooperation."

PRINCE SIHANOUK BEGINS VISIT TO BEIJING

For reportage of Prince Norodom Shihanouk's visit to Beijing and his meetings with PRC officials, see the Southeast Asia section of the 9 December China daily report and subsequent issues.

MEETINGS, SPEECHES OBSERVE LPDR ANNIVERSARY

Souphanouvong Meets Diplomats

BK040533 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] On the morning of 1 December 1985, Souphanouvong, president of the republic and chairman of the SPC received a courtesy call from members of diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations in Laos, who greeted and expressed best wishes to him on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the LPDR's National Day, 2 December. Accompanying President Souphanouvong in receiving the greetings on this occasion were Sali Vongkhamso, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Khamphai Boupha, first deputy minister and acting minister of foreign affairs; and Mrs Khampheng Boupha, chairman of the Lao Women's Federation Central Committee; along with deputy ministers and many high-ranking cadres from the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

On behalf of the members of diplomatic corps and the representatives of the various international organizations in Laos, Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to the LPDR, as dean of the diplomatic corps, took this glorious occasion to express warm greetings and best wishes to President Souphanouvong and, through him, to the Lao people of various tribes. He sincerely wished the Lao people new, still greater achievements in the cause of defending and building the country and contributing to safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia and the world. The dean of the diplomatic corps also expressed sincere thanks to the government and people of the LPDR for providing the necessary conveniences for the diplomats to effectively perform their duties. He also wished the president happiness, long life, and great success in his noble cause.

In his reply speech thanking the guests, President Souphanouvong said:

[Begin recording] Beloved Comrade Nguyen Xuan, dean of the diplomatic corps; beloved excellency and comrade members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations in Laos; beloved ladies and gentlemen: First of all, I would like to sincerely thank your excellencies and comrades for your warm greetings extended to us on the occasion of the celebration of our 10th National Day anniversary. I am deeply touched by the fine, friendly speech of best wishes to our Lao people as delivered by Comrade Nguyen Xuan, dean of diplomatic corps on behalf of your excellencies and comrades. [applause]

Ten years ago, on 2 December 1975, the National Congress of Lao People's Representatives announced the dissolution of the monarchy and then the establishment of the LPDR in an elegant manner. That great event marked a significant, historic turning point for our Lao people's destiny. It has ushered in a new era -- an era of peace, independence, unification, and socialism. In the 10 years of the LPDR's life, under the LPRP's leadership, the Lao people have made glorious achievements in all fields. We have securely defended our beloved fatherland. Political tranquillity and public order in the country have been maintained. Developments have been achieved very rapidly in the agricultural, industrial, communications and transport, trade, educational, cultural, and public health fields in the past 10 years. The people's living conditions have been improved daily, step by step. We have achieved an initial success in implementing the First 5-Year State Plan on the economic and social development, and are positively preparing to implement the Second 5-Year State Plan. We have enthusiastically carried out emulation campaigns to score achievements to welcome the Fourth Congress of the LPRP.

In the past few years, following the implementation of our foreign policy of peace, friendship, and socialism, we have made a positive contribution to the cause of struggle of various nations for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Toward the Southeast Asia region, the LPDR, together with the SRV and the PRK, has strived to encourage the trend of meetings and talks between the Indochinese and ASEAN groups to settle problems in their relations in order to turn this region into one of genuine peace, stability, and cooperation. As we are all aware, the present urgent task of various nations is the struggle to safeguard peace and oppose bellicose policy. We have fully supported the peace initiatives as proposed by the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries -- initiatives aimed at opposing the arms race and eliminating the threat of nuclear war. We have supported the Soviet stance in the recent Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva.

Beloved, distinguished guests: It is true that the all-round achievements made by our Lao people in the past 10 years are [words indistinct], but they are achievements of great significance because they have come from a weak beginning in the implementation of tasks, and amid very difficult and complicated circumstances. These achievements cannot be separated from the precious support and assistance of various fraternal socialist countries, various friendly countries, various international organizations, and various progressive forces around the world.

On the occasion of this elegant day, on behalf of the party, state, and people of Laos, I would like to express great gratitude and sincere thanks to those countries, organizations, and progressive forces for their support and assistance. I would also like to wholeheartedly thank the dean of the diplomatic corps, your excellencies, and comrades for your warm greetings and high appraisal to our Lao people. On the occasion of the celebration of our glorious National Day festival and on the occasion of the international year of 1986, I would like to extend to your excellencies and comrades and your families best wishes for good health, happiness, and success in carrying out your causes. I also hope for further development in the (?normal) relations and friendship between our countries and peoples. Thank you. [applause]
[end recording]

Leaders Visit Monument

BK020943 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 10th founding anniversary of the LPDR, at 0730 [0030 GMT] on 1 December, party and state leaders, including Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Souphanouvong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, president of the LPDR, and chairman of the SPC; comrade members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau Nouhak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, General Khamtai Siphandon, and Sisomphon Lovansai; Vice Chairman of the SPC and of the Lao Front for National Construction Comrade Faidang Lobaliayao; Comrade Secretaries of the party Central Committee Sali Vongkhamsao, General Sisavat Keobounphan, Lieutenant General Saman Vi-gnaket, and Maichantan Sengmani; and other comrade leaders laid wreaths at the revolutionary monument in Vientiane capital.

Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, Comrade President Souphanouvong, and the other party and state leaders expressed gratitude toward the comrade revolutionary fighters who have made sacrifices for the nation and people. The wreaths were attached to banners with golden lettering saying: The party, state, and people are forever grateful to all fighters who sacrificed their lives for the revolution. After our party and state leaders laid their wreaths, representatives of many organizations, including the national defense Armed Forces, the mass organizations, localities, and the Vientiane municipality, took turns laying wreaths in commemoration of the fallen revolutionary Lao fighters.

National Delegates Gather

BK041237 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] Vientiane, December 4 (KPL) -- The Lao party and government leaders headed by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers, on December 3rd, met more than 300 representatives from all over the country who had come here to attend the celebration of the 10th national day of the Lao PDR. Also present at the meeting with the general secretary were Nouhak Phoumsavan, Souphanouvong, Phoumi Vongvichit, General Khamtai Siphandon, Phoun Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, Politburo members of the party CC, Sali Vongkhamsao, Colonel-General Sisavat Keobounphan, Lieutenant-General Saman Vignaket and Maichantan Sengmani, members of the Secretariat of the party CC.

During the meeting Kaysone Phomvihan praised the achievements scored by the people in various localities in national defence and socialist construction in the past ten years, and urged them to launch an emulation movement in all branches of activities aimed at raising production and building a new type of men -- socialist men -- for continuing the revolutionary cause and building a new socialist prosperous Laos.

PRK Group Tours Luang Prabang

BK041415 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] On the morning of 3 December the PRK party and state delegation led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, left Vientiane by a special plane for a visit to the northern Lao province of Luang Prabang. Upon his arrival in Luang Prabang Province, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin was warmly welcomed by Comrade Vongphet Saikou, member of the LPRP Central Committee and secretary of the party committee of Luang Prabang Province; Comrade Brigadier General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, member of the party Central Committee and chief of the northern region military command; and members of the party and administrative committees of the province and many local cadres, combatants, and people.

On this occasion, the provincial party and administrative committees and the northern region military command jointly hosted an honorable and joyous solidarity dinner to welcome Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin and his party. The guests were accompanied on a tour of the township, including various ancient ruins such as the National Museum and the Siangthong temple, the exhibition hall of the tradition of the northern military region, and the northern region military command. Wherever the delegation visited, it was warmly welcomed by the responsible officials and the local administration. The delegation was very pleased with the visit and regards it as a great contribution to promoting and developing the friendship relations, special militant solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Cambodia and among Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

The PRK party and state delegation returned to Vientiane the same evening. Earlier, on the afternoon of 2 December, General Secretary Heng Samrin led the PRK party and state delegation to visit the Vientiane bazaar opened on the occasion of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the 2 December National Day. Various ministries, provinces, the Vientiane municipality, the capitals of Phnom Penh, Hanoi, and Moscow, and Ho Chi Minh City displayed products and goods at the bazaar.

PRK Delegation Departs

BK050254 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK State Council, led the PRK party-state delegation in departing for home from Vientiane aboard a special Cambodian Airlines flight on the morning of 4 December after attending the grand rally to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the LPDR National Day in Vientiane. A grand and honorable ceremony was held at Wattai Airport to bid farewell to the PRK party-state delegation. Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the SPC, and other Lao party and state leaders were at the airport to bid farewell to the Cambodian guests. Comrade Nguon Phansiphon, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and senior staff members of the PRK Embassy were also on hand to see the PRK delegation off. Before the guests boarded the plane for home, Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai invited Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin to inspect the LPA honor guard and several hundred young pioneers, who were joyously standing in rows to bid farewell to the Cambodian guests in an atmosphere filled with the great friendship between the Lao and Cambodian people.

Soviets Tour Luang Prabang

BK041258 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] On the morning of 3 December, the Soviet party and state delegation led by Comrade Yakov Petrovich Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, while in Laos to attend the Lao National Day celebration, left Vientiane by a special plane for a visit to Luang Prabang Province in northern Laos. At Luang Prabang airport the delegation was warmly welcomed by Comrade Vongphet Saikeu, member of the LPRP Central Committee and secretary of the Luang Prabang provincial party committee; Comrade Brigadier General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, member of the party Central Committee and chief of the northern region military command; members of the party committee and the administrative committee of the province; and a large number of local residents.

During its visit, the provincial party and administrative committees hosted a warm solidarity dinner to welcome the delegation. The delegation was led on a tour of the township, ancient ruins, and the exhibition hall of the traditions of the northern military region. The delegation was pleased and impressed with the tour. The delegation left Luang Prabang and safely arrived in Vientiane on the evening of the same day. Earlier, on 2 December, the Soviet party and state delegation visited the revolutionary museum in Vientiane.

Soviet Delegation Departs

BK050258 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] On the morning of 4 December, the USSR party and state delegation led by Comrade Yakov Petrovich Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Supreme Soviet, and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, departed Vientiane for home aboard a special flight after attending the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the 2 December National Day in Vientiane at the invitation of the Lao side.

A grand and honorable ceremony was held at Wattai airport to bid farewell to the delegation. Comrade Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, invited Comrade Yakov Petrovich Ryabov to inspect the LPA honor guard and to walk past a large number of young pioneers who were standing in rows to bid farewell to the Soviet guests. Comrade Vladimir Sobchenko, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and senior staff members of the Soviet Embassy were also on hand to see the delegation off.

PASASON Marks National Day

BK021455 Vientiane KPL in English 0934 GMT 2 Dec 85

["Ten Years of Revolutionary Victory"--KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, December 2 (OANA-KPL) -- The LPRP CC organ, PASASON editorially hailed the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Lao PDR qualifying it as the gigantic victory secured by the Lao people during the last 10 years.

"The sitting of the national congress of the people's representatives from December 1 to 2nd, 1975 was the demarcation line for the Lao revolution. It has officially abolished the monarchy, the neo-colonialist and semi-feudalist system in the land of Laos and proclaimed the Lao PDR which entered in a new era, an era of peace, independence, unity and socialism. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party having Kaysone Phomvihane as the general secretary has decided to lead the country directly towards socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

That is the path to be followed by the Lao revolution. It is aimed at meeting the earnest aspirations of the Lao people of all ethnic groups such as to strengthen peace, preserve independence and sovereignty and build a life of happiness and prosperity.

The party laid out the general policy for the transitional period as follows: The establishment and consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the solidarity among all ethnic groups and the right of the working people to be the collective master of the country. Together with the simultaneous achievement of the 3 revolutions, taking the development of agriculture and forestry as basis for the industrial development, to transform the natural economy, to gradually turn the small scale production into big, socialist production.

To implement that general policy, the party laid out 2 strategic tasks; national safeguard and socialist construction. In the implementation of those 2 strategic tasks. [sentence as received] To fulfill these two tasks, Laos has to confront with numerous difficulties due to the aftermath of the war and the former regime, the extremely weak material and technical base, the enemy's all-round and uninterrupted attempts at sabotaging the country. However, under the talented leadership of the LPRP and thanks to the bloc of special solidarity among the 3 countries of Indochina, the great and efficient assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries and the support and assistance of friendly countries in the world, over the past 10 years, the Lao people have recorded great and significant achievements.

Comparing with 1976, the gross industrial products has been increased by 4 times, the socialist trade has been expanded in all over the country, the communication network throughout the nation has been widely extended, foodstuff production has been increased by 2.7 times, forestry exploitation by 7 times and the whole nation has been liberated from illiteracy.

Implementing the key task set forth in the revolution of the party central committee on agriculture transformation, the party and government have aroused farmers to gradually adopt the collective way of life, hence turning the small-scale, backward, scattered production into big socialist production. At present, 3,184 agri-cooperatives have been set up, covering [word indistinct] of the country's rice fields and involving 51 percent of peasant families.

During the past 10 years, the administrative power from the central to the grassroots levels have been progressively consolidated. The administrative power of all levels gradually turns the party's political tasks and the 5-year plan into reality, is able to safeguard security in its own locality and improve the people's living conditions. At the same time, mass organizations, youth, women, trade unions, and the front were continuously consolidated. Those organizations are to implement the party's and government's policy, thus enthusiastically contributing to the safeguard of the nation and the construction of socialism."

The paper further writes: "As far as the national defence and security are concerned, the People's Armed Forces which are more powerful than ever, include the regular army having more and more modern techniques and equipment, the regional armed forces and the militia. These forces are growing in strength and are always ready at any moment to defend the country.

After the founding of the new regime, the party and government laid out a foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and socialism. Implementing that policy, the LPDR -- in the past ten years -- has developed and enhanced its combative alliance, special solidarity and all-round cooperation with fraternal Vietnam and Kampuchea, as well as its solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

The party and government fully supported the peace initiatives of the USSR and of other socialist countries, particularly Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to the United States on the reduction of 50 percent of nuclear armament, the proposal of making outer space a zone free from nuclear armament and we fully support the Soviet Union's decision on a moratorium on nuclear armament test as from August 1985, we highly assess the result of the Geneva summit meeting between General Secretary of the CPSU CC Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, which we consider an important step towards reducing world tension and diverting the threat of a nuclear holocaust from mankind. The LPDR expresses its support to the success of the recent summit meeting of the Warsaw Treaty member countries in Sofia, the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Throughout the past period, the LPDR, together with the socialist and non-aligned countries and the world progressive movements has struggled for peace, national independence, especially in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and the United States' nuclear arms race and its outer space militarization program. The LPDR supports the national liberation movement of the peoples in the world.

Regarding the settlement of issues in Southeast Asia, the party and government together with Vietnam and Kampuchea have several times proposed a dialogue with the ASEAN member countries, aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability and cooperation, thus contributing to the safeguard of world peace, at the same time, special solidarity with Vietnam and Kampuchea with a view to foil all the dark maneuvers detrimental to the three Indochinese countries pursued by the hegemonists-expansionists and the imperialists."

DEFENSE MINISTER GREETES CUBAN COUNTERPART

BK031558 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 2 Dec 85

[2 December greetings message from General Khamtai Siphandon, LPDR national defense minister, to General Raul Castro Ruz, Cuban minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces]

[Text] Respected Comrade Mr Minister;

On the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on behalf of all cadres and combatants in the LPA, I would like to extend my most intimate salutations and greetings to you, comrade, and, through you our wholehearted militant solidarity and fraternal friendship to all cadres and combatants in the heroic Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Over the past 29 years, under the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, all combat units of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces have enhanced their invincible revolutionary tradition to become a strong, modern revolutionary army. They have fought together with the heroic Cuban people in the socialist outpost in the Western Hemisphere to fulfill their glorious international obligations, thus causing the enemy to have fear and friends to have faith in them.

The LPA and the Lao people are extremely elated and proud of the growth and strength of the fraternal Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces and regard them as a clear model for us. May the friendship and militant solidarity between the peoples and armies of the two countries be further developed and strengthened! May the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces grow stronger and bigger and score yet new greater successes in fulfilling the tasks of defending and building their socialist state and in fulfilling their international obligations. I wish you, Comrade Mr Minister, good health and new achievements in fulfilling your glorious and noble duties.

Vientiane, 2 December 1985

[Signed] General Khamtai Siphandon, minister of national defense of the LPDR.

SUCCESSSES OF 1ST ANTIAIRCRAFT UNIT NOTED

BK050354 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Feature article: "First Antiaircraft Battalion A"]

[Text] Following the liberation of the Plain of Jars and the Xieng Khouang plain in 1960 the U.S. imperialists and their traitorous reactionary henchmen intensified their air war of destruction, stepped up attacks on the liberated zone, sent forces to suppress and assassinate cadres and combatants attached to the various patriotic forces in a barbarous manner, and launched propaganda campaigns to divide the patriotic forces from the people, thus creating a confused and complex situation in the Xieng Khouang region.

Faced with such a situation, relying on the party's line of struggle, consolidating, and expanding the Armed Forces in response to the requirements of the situation, the then LPLA Supreme Command decided to pull out some cadres and combatants from various corps for training and organizing the first antiaircraft battalion of the antiaircraft corps in the LPLA on 18 October 1961 in the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khouang liberated area. This battalion was headed by Comrade (Chan) and run by 79 cadres and combatants. These combatants were beloved sons and nephews of the people of various nationalities from various localities and provinces, such as Sayaboury, Luang Namtha, Xieng Khouang, Vientiane, and central and southern regions. The majority of them were youths of various nationalities from Luang Prabang Province. The battalion was organized into three companies -- two 37-mm gun company and one 12.8-mm gun company. The first 37-mm gun company was led by Comrade (Bouathai) as head and Comrade (Noukeo) as company political cadre. The second 37-mm gun company was head by (Bounlot) as company commander and Comrade (Sout) as company political cadre. These two companies operated in Ban Ang at kilometer marker 2 in Kak Canton, Pek District, Xieng Khouang Province.

Shortly after its founding the battalion faced many difficulties. For example, its cultural, political, and ideological level was low; cadres and combatants were still weak in grasping the party's line and policies; the majority of cadres and combatants were illiterate; their air tactical level was low; and their scientific knowledge of combat, political, and ideological issues were weak while their weapons and equipment were modern. Nevertheless, closely guided by the higher echelons, and thanks to the practical deeds and lofty spirit of patriotism, on 19 April 1962 the first company began its battle against the U.S. air pirates and successfully brought down an F-101, which was a modern U.S. aircraft at that time, with four bullets. It was the first U.S. aircraft ever downed in Indochina.

After completing its mission, the battalion set to work to provide more training and education to its units in order to raise the level of their capabilities in all fields. On 5 April 1964, the battalion was assigned a combat mission to intercept enemy aircraft along the route from Ban Naphe to Na Savan villages, Muang Kham District in order to defend a planned route for our Armed Forces to move to liberate the Plain of Jars, Muang Phan, Muang Keung and to drive out the Kong Le neutralist forces from the region. At that time, the situation became increasingly tense and confusing. In face of the development, the 12.8-mm company cooperated with the infantry to set up ambushes against the enemy forces moving from the Plain of Jars to Soui District. After liberating the Plain of Jars, the second company coordinated with the infantry forces to defend the Phou Kout mountains.

As for the first battalion, it also stood ready to defend Khang Khai following the operation to drive out the bogus patriotic neutralist forces of Kong Le. During the mission, the battalion and other units scored victories as follows: shooting down 5 T-28's on the spot and damaging 7 others, and destroying 3 armored vehicles and 28 military trucks. After fulfilling the mission, the battalion was assigned combat missions to coordinate with other combat units to carry out combat operations in a wider area, including Khang Khai, Muang Phan, Muang Phang, Muang Ngan, Xieng Khouang, Tha Thom, Pa Dong, Tat Peup, Nam Tian, Muang Kham, Muang Seng, and the areas around the Phou Kout mountain. By May 1965, another company was set up armed with 37-mm guns and another platoon armed with 12.8-mm guns. That means that the battalion organization at that time was composed of four companies. The battalion command was changed with Comrade Bounmi as commanding officer and Comrade Boua Thai as battalion staff officer. The number of cadres and combatants also increased by 80 percent. They were able to brilliantly fulfill all missions.

After scoring one victory after another in successive combat missions, the level of capabilities in all fields of all cadres and combatants in the Battalion gradually increased and more experience was gained. At the same time, the battalion command structure was also reorganized with Comrade Boua Thai as commanding officer. Each company was also assigned independent missions, such as to defend supply routes from Nong Het to Khang Khai and from Nong Het to the Phou Kout mountain. At that time, the enemy deployed ground and air forces to launch heavy attacks against our side. Particularly in the Phou Kout mountain battlefield, the enemy released ground and air attacks against our forces day and night for 7 consecutive days. In this operation, the battalion also actively contributed to resisting the enemy by shooting down 19 enemy planes on the spot and 11 others some distance from the battlefield and damaging 57 others. On 17 November 1965, the 12.8-mm platoon of the fourth company stationed at Tat Peup shot down one B-52 on the spot and damaged two others.

In other combat operations, Air Defense Battalion A also coordinated with other combat units to defeat the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in other battlefields in Xieng Khouang Province during the period of national liberation struggle. Between 1961 when the battalion was established and 1973, the battalion shot down 28 enemy aircraft of various types and damaged 525 others. In addition to fighting the enemy in the sky, the battalion also coordinated with the infantrymen to resist the enemy forces on 249 occasions, killing 131 enemy soldiers on the spot, capturing and forcing 307 others to surrender, and seizing a large quantity of weapons and war materiel.

Air Defense Battalion A also had a tradition of working hard to boost production in order to supply food for consumption by its own units. Because of its heroic tradition and the glorious achievements made during the national liberation struggle, Battalion A was selected as the first heroic unit of all the air defense units and was awarded the first class victory medal and a victory banner for its overall commendable performance.

Further enhancing its tradition of heroism and outstanding achievements in the past 10 years of defending the country and building socialism, Air Defense Battalion A has consolidated and built its units in all fields, including in organizing and educating them to raise the level of capabilities of cadres with regard to command management and utilization of new technology, and modern weapons and equipment. All cadres have been assigned definite levels of command and management within the scope of their responsibilities to preparedness, to appreciate the party's line and policy, to heighten their sense of awareness, to perform their duties faithfully and to build courage to sacrifice everything for the revolutionary cause. Air Defense Battalion A has also contributed to efforts to turn the grassroots level to assist in consolidating and building the local administrations, building the grassroots foundation, maintaining public order, and improving the people's living conditions in accordance with the party's and state's line, thereby creating achievements in various fields and strengthening the units under its command.

BRIEFS

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN'S SELECTED WORKS -- Vientiane, December 1 (OANA-KPL) -- On the occasion of the 10th National Day of the Lao PDR, the publishing house here has published the first collection of works by Kayson Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP CC. This collection deals with the national-democratic revolution. [Text]
[Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 1 Dec 85 BK]

NAVY CHIEF ON U.S. EXERCISES, POISONED MINES

BK061413 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] The Royal Thai Navy has sought the cooperation of the U.S. Marines in studying the mines used by foreign forces close to the Thai border in order to find out what kind of poison they contain so that a remedy can be worked out. Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Nippon Sirithon said this is an interview granted to newsmen after he met with Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral James Lyons at the Navy headquarters this morning.

[Begin recording] [Nippon] We discussed joint exercises and the coordination of missions in peacetime, not during wartime. This is in line with the policy of the U.S. Navy chief, Admiral Watkins, outlined at the 21-23 September meeting at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. According to him, the navies of the free-world countries should cooperate in operations designed to prepare for contingencies. Joint naval exercises and air patrols between the U.S. Pacific Fleet and the Royal Thai navy will therefore be held. We will use P-3 planes and Fokker F-27 aircraft in this patrol training to spot the movement of the Soviet nuclear-powered ship named Korov and its three escort ships while crossing from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The U.S. commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet has given us photographs of the Soviet fleet.

[Unidentified newsman] What did you tell him about the situation in this region?

[Nippon] The Royal Thai Navy's present responsibility is to protect the Thai border area close to Cambodia at Chanthaburi and Trat Provinces. The other side introduced a new kind of mine apparently coated with poison for use in the border area. We therefore requested help from the U.S. Marines to identify the kind of poison used on the mines so that a remedy can be worked out to properly help our soldiers if they are hit. The U.S. commander accepted our request.

[Unidentified newsman] Have our Navy officials been hit often by the mines?

[Nippon] Yes, often. However, we are not sure whether the new type of mine has been involved. All the same, we have discovered mines that are made not of plastic or metal, but of wood.

[Unidentified newsman] How serious is the danger of this kind of mine?

[Nippon] The wounds caused by this kind of mine are difficult to heal. [end recording]

EDITORIAL URGES PROTEST TO USSR OVER MINES

BK041421 Bangkok NAO NA in Thai 4 Dec 85 p 4

[Editorial: "We Must Protest to the Russians"]

[Text] The discovery of a 100,000 [as published] wooden mines apparently coated with poison along the Thai-Cambodian border is further evidence that Thailand is threatened. Those booby traps do not effect military operations, but they frighten the villagers from their land. Once the area is abandoned, Thailand's enemy can infiltrate and later occupy it. The booby traps are clearly marked as made in the Soviet Union. They were put in Thai territory by Vietnamese soldiers. The Thai military learned that the booby traps were given to Vietnam by the Soviet Union about 2 months ago.

This action by the Soviet Union and Vietnam has spoiled the atmosphere in the region. Thailand has always tried to improve relations and lessen tension. It hoped that through economic pressure, Vietnam would one day tone down its military occupation of Cambodia and give the Cambodian people their right to self-determination of their gov-

Thailand's relations with the Soviet Union have improved gradually lately, especially after Thailand was hit by U.S. trade protectionism. Although the Thai Government continues to adopt a hard-line policy toward the Soviet Union, the Thai private sector and mass media have adopted a more open attitude on contacts with the Soviet Union.

The mining of Thai territory has dashed all hopes immediately. There is no reason or justification for the Soviet Union's and Vietnam's action in which Thailand caught them redhanded. The Soviet Union and Vietnam are held responsible for all consequences.

We support Foreign Minister Air Chief Marchal Sitthi Sawetsila's statement that "Thailand is not an enemy of Vietnam. What Thailand is doing is trying to get Vietnam to follow a correct line -- to remove its soldiers and end its occupation of another country. The same goes for the Soviet Union. Thailand is not its enemy, but Thailand does not want the Soviet Union to supply weapons for the killing of Cambodian people since Thailand is affected by this fighting." The Soviet Union and Vietnam must review their policy and action with regard to Cambodia and Thailand and see that it runs counter to all efforts to establish peace in this region.

It is a waste of time to smile at one another while hiding daggers behind one's back. The Soviet Union and Vietnam must clarify themselves at the United Nations concerning their rejection of the UN resolutions. But regarding their repeated violations of Thailand's territory, both covertly and openly, the Soviet Union and Vietnam must take responsibility and solve the problem directly with Thailand.

As for Thailand, we urge that our Foreign Ministry take diplomatic action and summon the Soviet ambassador to receive a protest note as well as an aide memoire if necessary. The Foreign Ministry must publicize the matter to the world instead of disseminating it only among the Thai people. The Soviet Union and Vietnam have not abandoned their design to establish an Indochinese Federation. As long as Thailand continues to be threatened, there will be no peace in Indochina.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ATTACKS U.S. TRADE POSITION

BK050909 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 85 p 4

[From the "Postbag" letters column]

[Text] Sir: Ambassador Brown of the U.S., last week, put up a brave defence against the accusation of American protectionism. His line was not an outright denial but a conditional one. No, the U.S. is not yet protectionist, he contends, but because it suffered a huge trade deficit of over \$100 billion, [it] has to become also protectionist like Japan and the European Community, which are the main beneficiaries of that deficit. The ambassador, however, failed to mention that when trade restrictive measures have been and are being taken, they were hardly aimed at the sources causing the deficits, but almost entirely at the impoverished developing nations like Thailand. The Europeans and Japanese were practically exempted and immune. This feat of discrimination and perhaps also of racism is rarely seen in modern time.

How can this be explained? A recent distinguished American visitor put it on account of the NATO and bilateral alliances which gave these nations a special privilege over others. It may also be the fact that the former were capable of retaliation, while ours are more or less defenceless. This shows the degree of morality adhered to in these recent actions.

On the other hand, Ambassador Brown did not harp on "unfair trade practices" as legislators did. Probably, he is aware that the said practices resulted abundantly from the resort by the U.S. to PL 480 sales. He also mentioned that Thailand enjoyed a U.S. \$750 million trade surplus with the U.S. He admitted, nevertheless, that these figures are arrived at by "American statistics." In other words, these are concocted to "prove" a case, not for any credibility.

Then he threw in a big boulder in the pond: the U.S. has given Thailand \$8 billion. If this figure is genuine and does not include the cost of the great amount of concrete poured into the airfields used by American planes during the Vietnam War, we should be profoundly grateful. But is the Ambassador aware that by allowing the U.S. to use U Taphao and other airfields during the Vietnam War, this country helped the American taxpayers save thousands of American lives and material savings valued at billions of dollars, many times the amount given Thailand, as the war planes did not have to fly back and forth from Guam? Did not that fact deserve some kind of recognition? Especially, when all this was not done for Thailand's own direct defense and when the effects are still felt by the Thai people who were left high and dry by the American "home run" at the end of the Vietnam War. Dr Kissinger at least had the decency to express his regrets that the U.S., because of "domestic political situation" has placed this country in such a predicament. And for this, Thailand has been rewarded with bashings by U.S. legislators whose high objectives and ideals aim only at third re-election. [Signed] Thanat Khoman [former Thai foreign minister]

MORE SOVIET ARMS REPORTED SENT TO CAMBODIA

BK080240 Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 8 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] The Supreme Command Headquarters Information Office released a news bulletin this weekend regarding increased Soviet military weapons for the Vietnamese in Cambodia. The bulletin said that at the end of last month -- from 20 to 25 November -- the USSR sent two 155 mm artillery pieces and 16 T-54 tanks for Vietnam. The weapons were shipped to the military base in Kompong Som.

RADIO FEATURE DENOUNCES PRC ARMED PROVOCATIONS

BK080445 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Feature by Station Editor Vu Dinh Vinh: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense"]

[Text] Dear friends and listeners, in early December the northern border of our country became more tense. On 2 December Chinese troops fired almost 35,000 artillery rounds at 33 areas of Vi Xuyen District, Ha Tuyen Province, chiefly at Thanh Thuy, Coc Nghe, and south of Hill 1505. At 0830 the same day, an enemy infantry regiment formed three columns and launched five attacks on Heights 1100 and 900, some 20 km northwest of the city of Ha Giang. Our local armed forces repelled all five land-grabbing attacks, killing hundreds of the enemy.

It is necessary to say that in October and November, Chinese troops continuously conducted provocative activities along our country's northern border. They sent scouts to intrude on 62 occasions into Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen, and Lai Chau Provinces. They regularly fired mortar shells and mounted many infantry attacks on our hills. During these 2 months, on one particular day they fired more than 23,000 shells -- some landing as much as 12 km inside our border. They have also regularly carried out psychological warfare and espionage activities along the Vietnamese border areas.

We applaud the army and people of Ha Tuyen Province who, by fighting valiantly and resourcefully, have vanquished the Chinese troops and firmly defended the fatherland's border. Recent events in Ha Tuyen have proven that the reactionary nature of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists has never changed and that their hostile strategy and policy against our people are insidious. They have continued the multifaceted war of sabotage against Vietnam while accelerating their landgrabbing operations along the border areas. Our people wish to restore their friendship with the Chinese people. However, we resolutely oppose all acts of the reactionaries among the Chinese ruling circles who closely collude with the U.S. imperialists to promote confrontation and create tension.

All bombardments and landgrabbing infantry attacks against various areas of Vi Xuyen District, Ha Tuyen Province in early December as well as allegations by Bangkok and Beijing that Vietnamese troops in Cambodia are preparing for new attacks and intrusions into Thai territory, all these are new proof that help us clearly understand the current developing situation, thereby heightening our vigilance to carry out the two strategic tasks -- building and defending the socialist fatherland.

When the dry season begins, various border units must draw on their experience during the recent fighting against the enemy intruders to carry out satisfactorily tasks firmly building the people's war position, coordinate closely with people of various nationalities, heighten vigilance, discover promptly and deal a hard blow to all acts of enemy aggression and intrusion if they stubbornly carry out these operations again.

Dear comrades and friends, the reverberation from the USSR-U.S. summit last week continues. Public opinion contends that this summit will result in the beginning of a negotiation process, pointing out that thanks to the Soviet goodwill, the United States was forced to, together with the Soviet Union, pledge that it will not attempt to wage a nuclear war -- the highest concern of all people. However, the bellicose and reactionary nature of imperialism has not changed. Talks were convened only through a difficult and complex process. To assess the result of the summit, we must consider the actual acts of the United States and its allies.

In the United States, industrial-military complexes are those who oppose the positive results of the USSR-U.S. summit. The monopoly capitalists who produce weapons worry that if the world situation becomes less tense and the arms race diminishes, their income would fall by billions of dollars. Representatives of these capitalist groups in the U.S. Administration are seeking ways to stop the implementation of the USSR-U.S. agreements.

The ink on the joint communique had not even dried before the U.S. President made a statement before the U.S. Congress. In his statement, he continued to justify the stubborn U.S. stand concerning the SDI program and to accuse the Soviet Union of a so-called expansionist policy.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government continues to accelerate the SDI program -- "star wars" -- which has been strongly opposed. The Pentagon has completed projects for testing the ability to intercept missiles and trajectories in outer space -- the program is abbreviated as HOR -- which are aimed at eliminating orbiting intercontinental ballistic missiles by non-nuclear facilities. This is usually called intercepting an attack in outer space.

Also in the framework of accelerating the SDI program, the Pentagon has conducted research and tests on two-stage anti-missile weapons and separate attack warheads. The United States has test launched missiles four times from the Kwajalein launching pad in the Pacific. Furthermore it is known that the United States is accelerating the manufacture of new space-based offensive weapons.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the United States has implemented large-scale projects for manufacturing high output laser weapons. For example, in a radiation laboratory in California, a one billion-watt sharp laser beam has been tested. The United States is also designing the production of a laser (roentgen) beam using infrared nuclear energy. At the same time, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill earmarking \$9.2 billion for the current fiscal year for the program of building new military projects.

On an island in New York City the United States has spent an additional \$55 million to build a large naval base as the anchorage for the battleship "Iowa", armed with winged nuclear missiles, and its escort ships. Tens of millions of U.S. dollars have also been spent to build a base for a new modern aircraft carrier in Washington. The bill also finances the construction of a large military base in New York and the Pentagon plans to let one of its two mobile infantry divisions use the base as a springboard for military intervention in other countries, and so forth.

The above-mentioned arms race-pointed military activities of the United States have taken place in the wake of the USSR-U.S. summit. This is more reason for world progressives to remain vigilant in the struggle to check the U.S. warmongers' hands and protect the peace and security of nations.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GDR DELEGATION'S VISIT

Felfe Meets Do Muoi

OW042100 Hanoi VNA in English 1559 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 4 -- Talks were held at the Presidential Palace here today between a Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Do Muoi, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the visiting party and government delegation of the German Democratic Republic led by Werner Felfe, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (S.E.D).

Present at the talks on the Vietnamese side were Vu Oanh, member of the CPV CC and head of its Commission for Agriculture; Vo Dong Giang, minister; and Do Van Tai, deputy head of the party's International Department. On the GDR side were Dr Herbert Krolikowski, member of the SED central Committee, secretary of state and first deputy minister of foreign affairs; Bruno Mahlow, member of the party Central Control Commission and deputy head of the Central Committee International Relations Department and Dr Hermann Schwiesau, GDR Ambassador to Vietnam.

At the talks, the two sides informed each other of the situation in each country, exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern and reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen the friendship, fraternal solidarity and allround cooperation between Vietnam and the GDR. The two sides were unanimous on all questions raised at the talks. After its arrival, the delegation paid homage at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Later in the day, a reception in its honour was arranged by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Council of Ministers.

Delegation Meets Le Duan

BK051712 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 5 -- Party General Secretary Le Duan and State Council President Truong Chinh received here today the visiting GDR party and state delegation led by Werner Felde, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) Central Committee. Present on the occasion were Do Muoi, Political Bureau member of the party CC and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Vu Quang, member of the party CC and head of its International Department; Vu Oanh, member of the party CC and head of its Commission for Agriculture, and GDR Ambassador Dr Hermann Schwiesau.

Le Duan warmly welcomed the Vietnam visit by Werner Felde and his delegation which, he said, has greatly encouraged the Vietnamese people in their national construction and defence. He expressed his satisfaction at the success of the recent talks between the Vietnamese and GDR party and state delegations. In face of the intensified arms race and war-like policy pursued by U.S.-led imperialism, he noted, the development of the close friendship and militant solidarity between Vietnam and the GDR will contribute to increasing the strength of the socialist community and the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Le Duan thanked the party, state and people of the GDR for its strong support and valuable assistance to Vietnam in its revolutionary cause. He wished the GDR people still greater successes in carrying out their 1981-85 Five-Year Plan and in their labour emulation movement in honour of the forthcoming 11th SED Congress.

In reply, Werner Felde conveyed to Le Duan and Truong Chinh and other Vietnamese leaders the kind regards from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the GDR. He said that the Vietnamese and GDR peoples have been closely linked to each other by their time-honoured friendship laboriously built and fostered by the late Presidents Ho Chi Minh and Wilhelm Pieck, he expressed the GDR communists and peoples determination to further consolidate the friendship, militant solidarity and allround cooperation between the two countries in the interests of each country, and for the sake of peace and security in the region and the world as a whole. The reception took place in an atmosphere brimming with cordiality and fraternity.

Group Visits Ho Chi Minh City

BK061719 Hanoi VNA in English 1554 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 6 -- The visiting party and government delegation of the German Democratic Republic headed by Werner Felfe, Politbureau member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, left Hanoi today for a visit to Ho Chi Minh City. It was seen off by Do Muoi, Vu Oann, Vo Dong Giang, Nguyen Dy Nien and other Vietnamese party and government high-ranking officials. The GDR guests were accompanied by Do Van Thai, deputy-head of the International Department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee

Delegation Concludes Visit

BK080125 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 7 -- A GDR party and government delegation led by Werner Felfe, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) Central Committee, left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding a four-day official friendship visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. While here, the delegation paid a floral tribute at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office. It was cordially received by Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and Truong Chinh, Political Bureau Member of the CPV Central Committee and president of the State Council.

The GDR delegation held talks with a Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Do Muoi, Political Bureau member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. The two sides informed each other of the economic, political, cultural and social development of their respective countries, and exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

The Vietnamese side highly valued the GDR's foreign policy of peace and supported its initiatives and activities in the struggle against the arms race, for a Europe of peace, security and cooperation and free from chemical and nuclear weapons, and for world peace.

The GDR side affirmed its consistent solidarity with the Vietnamese people, highly valued and fully supported Vietnam's initiatives and efforts aimed at settling regional issues through negotiations and turning Southeast Asia into a peaceful, stable and cooperative region.

The two sides warmly acclaimed the Soviet Union's peace initiatives, especially the proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, and other proposals of the socialist countries aimed at putting an end to the arms race on the earth and in the outer space as well, for peace, detente and international cooperation. The two sides held that the recent Soviet Union-U.S. summit conference was an important international event which had created favourable conditions for the world people to promote their struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the constant development of the friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of the two countries and renewed their resolve to further strengthen these ties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and the Vietnam-GDR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed on Dec 4, 1977, in the interests of the two peoples, the socialist community as a whole, and the common struggle against imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. Working sessions were arranged between Werner Felfe and Nguyen Thanh Binh, secretary of the CPV Central Committee; between Bruno Mahlow and Vu Quang, head of the CPV Central Committee International Department, and between Herbert Krolkowski and Minister Vo Dong Giang. The two sides signed an agreement on cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries for the 1986-90 period.

The GDR delegation visited the Hoai Duc agricultural cooperative in Ha Son Binh Province, an export goods exhibition, the First Precinct and a cadet college named after President Wilhelm Pieck in Ho Chi Minh City. Wherever it went, the delegation was accorded warm welcome by local leaders and people. The official friendship visit to Vietnam by the GDR party and government delegation has made an important contribution between the parties, state and peoples of Vietnam and the GDR.

GANDHI DISCUSSES TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE LEADERS

OW061145 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] In his statement at a press conference on the evening of 1 December at New Delhi International Airport, upon his return from his visits to Vietnam and Japan, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said he had splendid talks with the Vietnamese leaders, that India and Vietnam could cooperate with each other in many fields, that they had very similar viewpoints on many southeast Asian issues. In his answer to a question by a New Delhi-based VNA correspondent on the results of his Vietnam visit and the three Indochinese countries' proposals regarding the current Southeast Asian situation, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said: We had very good talks with the Vietnamese leadership. There are many domains in which we can cooperate with each other, or where we are cooperating. Apart from the agreements we have reached, we have begun to work out the domains in which we can cooperate in the coming period. Also, we held talks on Southeast Asian issues. The Vietnamese leadership explained to us their stance and a number of proposals made by other persons, as well as what they would like to do.

RECEPTION MARKS FRENCH COMMUNISTS' ANNIVERSARY

BK080111 Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 7 -- The representative of the French Communist Party (FCP) newspapers L'HUMANITE in Vietnam and Mrs. Daniel Roussel gave a reception here this evening in honour of the 65th FCP anniversary. Present were Nguyen Co Thach, alternate Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Hoang Tung, secretary of the CPV Central Committee; the ambassadors of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to Vietnam; and many other senior Vietnamese officials. Hoang Tung and Daniel Roussel and others proposed toasts to the further strengthening of the time-honoured militant friendship between the communist parties and working classes of the two countries, and to the friendly cooperation between the French paper L'HUMANITE and the Vietnamese daily NHAN DAN and other Vietnamese mass media organs.

OPPOSITION GROUPS MANEUVER FOR UNITED TICKET

Aquino-Laurel Ticket Agreed

HK070025 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Unido [United Democratic Nationalist Organization] president and former senator Salvador Laurel has accepted the offer to be the vice presidential running mate of Laban coalition presidential candidate Mrs Cory Aquino. This was confirmed by Agapito Aquino, the brother-in-law of the widow of former senator Benigno Aquino, and who is also secretary general of the Lakas ng Bayan coalition. That coalition drafted Mrs Aquino for the presidency in the February 7 snap polls.

The announcement by Butz Aquino was made in his address to the Bangsa Moro Islamic Organization at the Manila Hilton Hotel yesterday [6 December]. It beat the gun on the projected joint announcements of the agreement set for tomorrow by Laurel and Mrs Aquino.

Meanwhile the race for the vice presidency among the opposition appears to be an open one despite the Laurel-Aquino agreement. Four [as heard] other opposition leaders were reported running for the number two post that will carry Mrs Aquino as their presidential candidate. The other vice presidential aspirants among the opposition are former senators Jovito Salonga and members of parliament Eva Estrada Kalaw, Ramon Mitra Jr, Luis Villafuerte, Marcello Fernan, and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. They were all adopting Mrs Aquino as their guest candidate, but will run under the banner of their respective parties.

Aquino-Laurel Ticket Collapses

HK090343 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] The expected Aquino-Laurel ticket against President Marcos collapsed yesterday when Mrs Cory Aquino refused to run under the banner of Unido [United Democratic Nationalist Opposition]. Former Senator Salvador Laurel announced yesterday he is running for the presidency and will file his certificate of candidacy today. Laurel's announcement was greeted with shouts of support and applause from Laurel's supporters who gathered at the Mandaluyong residence of Batasan minority floorleader Jose Laurel Jr. Mrs Cory Aquino, who was proclaimed the Laban [People's struggle] coalition presidential bet, was not present at the news conference. It was reported earlier that she and Laurel will make a joint announcement on their united efforts to unseat President Marcos.

United Democratic organizations sources said Laurel's decision was prompted by Cory Aquino's refusal to run under the Unido banner, which Laurel counterproposed for his acceptance to be her running mate in the election. The latest statement to come out of the Aquino camp was that Mrs Aquino was given the go signal to once more take the initiative to discuss the matter with Laurel for them to team up under a bigger coalition group as a compromise approach to their differences.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament Eva Kalaw, head of the Liberal Party faction and one of the original opposition's presidential aspirants, said she will convene her group soon to assess the implications of Laurel's decision to run for president. She also explained that her earlier announcement that she will instead seek the vice-presidency in support of Mrs Cory Aquino was intended to mean support for a single opposition presidential candidate. She said that she had not actually yielded to Mrs Aquino because they never had a talk.

Right now, she said that it seems all right for her to run as an independent candidate since her party and party leaders are capable of ensuring her victory.

The KBL national convention to select and proclaim the party's presidential standard-bearer for the 7 February elections will be held Wednesday. Deputy Prime Minister and party secretary-general Jose Rono said delegates to the KBL national convention will register today and tomorrow at the party headquarters at the Dona Crisanta building on Roxas Boulevard. Rono asked all delegates to register personally for purposes of accreditation and the submission of convention kits. Attending the convention are regional chairmen of the KBL, cabinet members, central committee chairmen, members of parliament, KBL candidates who lost in the 1984 elections, members of the interim Batasang Pambansa, provincial governors, and mayors.

Laurel To File Separately

HK090751 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Former Senator Laurel will file his certificate of candidacy for president under the Unido shortly with the Commission of Elections [Comelec]. Laurel made the announcement at the conference this morning with Comelec senior officials headed by Chairman Victorino Savellano just before the start of the hearing on the petition of four political parties to be accredited as the dominant opposition party in 1986 presidential elections. Also being taken up at the Comelec hearing is the accreditation of the KBL in the February 7 political exercise.

Laurel earlier announced his candidacy for the presidency after Mrs Aquino refused his proposal that the Aquino-Laurel ticket be registered under the Unido banner. Laurel said Mrs Aquino previously agreed to run as the Unido official candidate for president, but that the Aquino widow suddenly changed her mind and refused to run as Unido's candidate.

[Begin Laurel recording] She told me this morning that she is not willing to run as Unido candidate. She would like me to give way to her. She would like me to run as her vice president, but she is not willing to run under the banner of Unido and as guest candidate of other political groups. This sudden, sudden and unexpected refusal on her part to run as Unido candidate leaves me no choice now but to decline her offer to run as her vice president. [crowd shouts] Tomorrow, I will file in my certificate of candidacy for the presidency of our republic. [end recording]

Unido presidential candidate Salvador Laurel.

As this develops, the refusal of former Senator Laurel to be the running mate of Mrs Aquino signals the formal breakup of the opposition. This was observed by member of parliament and KBL assistant majority floorleader, Arturo Pacificador.

[Begin Pacificador recording] This is already an opening of hostilities between the two, and this is a breakup of the opposition already. There are, no doubt, that in the provinces now, the opposition, who used to campaign actively for opposition candidates in the Batasang Pambansa elections, are now scrambling for a place in the KBL [sentence as heard]. There is an exodus of people in the opposition transferring to the KBL in the provinces now. [end recording]

KBL assistant majority floorleader Arturo Pacificador.

Prominent among those who have filed their certificates of candidacy was MP Estrada Kalaw, who will run for vice president under the Liberal Party. The others who filed their certificates of candidacy this morning at the Comelec were (Lucio Regala) who listed as his profession radiocommentator, author, and president of the Philippine Labor Party, A certain (Capino Magdamit) is vying for vice president under the Philippine Labor Party. Also (Edwin Dafino) of Cotobato filed his candidacy for president as independent. Being heard by the Comelec at today's petitions for accreditation are the UNIDO Philippine Democratic Party, Lakas ng Bayan [People's struggle], the Liberal Party under the Kalaw wing, and the Nacionalista Party under the Roy wing.

Laurel Remarks

HK080232 Hong Kong AFP in English 0228 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Manila, Dec 8 (AFP) -- The Philippine opposition split wide open today when Salvador Laurel said he would run for president side by side with Corazon Aquino against the incumbent Ferdinand Marcos in the planned February 7 poll. Mr. Laurel said he rejected Mrs. Aquino's offer to be her vice-presidential running mate after Mrs. Aquino declined to run under his party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization, for undisclosed reasons.

Confusion reigned as Mr. Laurel initially said he was willing to sacrifice personal interests for opposition unity, but later added that he could not abandon his party and announced that he was running for president. "I am therefore filing my certificate of candidacy for president of our republic on or before December 11 as mandated by the UNIDO national convention last June 12, and so to battle and to victory" he declared.

Mrs. Aquino, 52, was originally scheduled to be at the news conference, which was widely expected to announce that they were running together, with the popular widow of Mr. Marco's slain political rival Benigno Aquino as presidential bet. She could not be reached immediately for comment.

Jubilation among hundreds of Laurel supporters quickly replaced the initial confusion. After the 57-year-old Mr. Laurel's declaration of his presidential candidacy, a brass band immediately struck up a lively tune.

"Yesterday evening, Mrs. Aquino for undisclosed reasons suddenly changed her mind and refused to run as Unido candidate. She wants me to give way to her. She wants me to run as her vice-president, but she is not willing to run under the banner of Unido," he said. "This leaves me no choice but to decline her offer to run as her vice president. I can sacrifice myself, I can sacrifice the presidency, but I cannot sacrifice my party and my principles," Mr. Laurel said. "I cannot sacrifice the people who have suffered so much and worked so hard all these years risking life, liberty and honor to put up the political machine that can topple the Marcos dictatorship," he added before saying he was running for president.

Mr. Laurel said in the earlier part of his prepared speech that "the crisis now facing the nation requires everyone, especially those who seek to lead our people, to subordinate personal interests to the paramount need for unity if we are to dismantle the Marcos dictatorship." "And so I agreed to make the sacrifice. I agreed to give way to Mrs. Aquino.... All I asked was that we both run as the official candidates of Unido," he said.

Mr. Laurel said Mrs. Aquino had agreed Thursday to run under Unido before changing her mind last night.

"UNIDO, after all, is the largest and most organized opposition party in the country today," he said. "Its capability to wage and win in a nationwide campaign was convincingly demonstrated in the 1984 (general) elections when we won a third of the seats," he added. "Mrs. Aquino and I readily agreed on two points: One, that the Marcos dictatorship must be defeated and dismantled, and second, that we must join forces. What took a little more time was the question of who should give way to the other," he said. "It was difficult because we both had the highest mandate from our respective groups," Mr. Laurel said.

Break With Aquino Not Final

HK080518 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Manila, Dec 8 (AFP) -- Salvador Laurel said here today he would run for president against fellow opposition leader Corazon Aquino in the battle to unseat President Ferdinand Marcos. His announcement came as a shock to many Filipinos who had expected the two to jointly declare a single ticket, with the popular widow of Mr. Marcos's slain adversary Benigno Aquino as the presidential candidate. But Mr. Laurel and other opposition sources later indicated the break was not necessarily final, and that both camps may meet again to patch up their differences in time for the planned February 7 special election.

Jubilation broke out in the Laurel camp after his declaration of candidacy. A brass band blared, firecrackers exploded, and Mr. Laurel was hoisted on his supporters' shoulders at a news conference at his family's suburban mansion. He said in a prepared speech that he had accepted Mrs. Aquino's offer to be her vice presidential running mate but then rejected it after she declined to run under his party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido). But Mrs. Aquino, 52, said in a statement that she was not against running under Unido and that she only wanted Mr. Laurel's party to link up with Laban Ng Bayan (People's Struggle), a coalition formed recently to back her late bid for the presidency. She was originally scheduled to appear at the press conference with Mr. Laurel but they parted ways after last-minute talks ended in disagreement.

Mr. Laurel, 57, was proclaimed the candidate of Unido, the country's largest and reputedly best-organized opposition party, last June, Mrs. Aquino announced her acceptance of a snowballing presidential draft only last Tuesday. The former senator, who has been preparing to run for president for five years, said he was willing to sacrifice his personal interests for the sake of opposition unity, but could not abandon his party and supporters. "I am therefore filing my certificate of candidacy for president of our republic on or before December 11 as mandated by the Unido national convention last June 12," he declared. But he later told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the offer for Mrs. Aquino to run as president under Unido still stood and he was hopeful they could meet again. "Yes, this is still open," he said, referring to the offer.

Opposition sources said Mr. Laurel was insisting on UNIDO as the vehicle for their joint ticket in order to prevent his possible "junking" as vice presidential bet later since other opposition leaders are eyeing the post. Under the disputed law governing the planned poll, all parties have until December 11 to file certificates of candidacy but final slates may be announced as late as December 21.

Mr. Marcos, who is to be formally proclaimed by the ruling New Society Movement (KBL) Wednesday, has not named his running mate. Mr. Laurel said he may pick his vice president from two women, Minnie Osmena of the central city of Cebu, daughter of the late opposition presidential aspirant Sergio Osmena, and Judy Roxas, widow of former Liberal Party head Gerardo Roxas.

Mr. Laurel was a close associate of Benigno Aquino and had kept cordial ties with Mrs. Aquino despite the bitter rivalry among their followers. Mrs. Aquino's statement said: "The statement of Mr. Doy Laurel that Mrs. Corazon Aquino refused to run under the UNIDO banner is not correct. The truth is that she had agreed to run under the banner of UNIDO-LABAN but this was not acceptable to Mr. Laurel."

President Marcos, who called for the snap election to gain a fresh mandate after 20 years in power, had no immediate comment on the latest developments in the opposition, presidential palace spokesmen said.

Mr. Laurel said in the earlier part of his prepared speech that "the crisis now facing the nation requires everyone, especially those who seek to lead our people, to subordinate personal interests to the paramount need for unity." "And so I agreed to make the sacrifice, I agreed to give way to Mrs. Aquino. All I asked was that we both run under the banner of UNIDO," he said. He said Mrs. Aquino already agreed to run under the UNIDO last Thursday.

Salonga May Be Running Mate

HK061601 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 6 Dec 85 p 15

[Text] The Liberal Party [LP] (Salonga wing) yesterday drafted its president former senator Jovito Salonga to be Mrs. Cory Aquino's running mate in the Feb. 7 snap elections. In a meeting of the national executive committee, 36 LP members signed a resolution endorsing Salonga for the vice-presidency. Mrs. Judy Roxas-Araneta, Lorna Verano-Yap, Jose Feliciano, MP Lito Atienza and Victor Ziga were scheduled to meet yesterday evening with Mrs. Aquino to present the resolution. Salonga is also president of the Laban ng Bayan coalition which is backing Aquino's candidacy.

The resolution said that while both Aquino and Salonga come from Luzon, it is not a hindrance to their joining up in a ticket. The resolution comes at a time when Salvador Laurel, to whom Aquino has offered the vice-presidency, has not yet decided on accepting it. He hinted yesterday, however, at having a united opposition ticket in the Feb 7 elections.

MARCOS CONFIDENT ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF POLLS

HK070027 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] President Marcos yesterday [6 December] expressed firm confidence on the constitutionality of the scheduled snap elections of the president and vice president on February 7. He said he was sure it will go through, because it stands on solid constitutional grounds. He said the legislature has always performed the function of setting the date for the election.

President Marcos expressed this in talks with American lecturer Robert Gros concerning the 10 petitions seeking a Supreme Court prohibition on the holding of the snap elections. The president explained that the 1980 election date was set by the legislature, and not by the constitution. Concerning the demands for this resignation, President Marcos said that in any democratic country, the President never resigns before an election, not even governors or mayors.

REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES TO KBL CONVENTION ENDS

HK090739 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Registration of delegates to the KBL national convention on Wednesday is now being conducted at the KBL national headquarters along Roxas Boulevard in Manila. The registration ends tomorrow. The delegates have been asked to register personally for purposes of accreditation and distribution of convention kits. The ruling party will hold its national convention at the Manila Hotel to choose its presidential standard-bearer for the February 1986 special elections for president and vice president. Delegates to the national convention include central committee and regional chairmen, members of parliament and KBL members of the interim Batasang Pambansa, provincial governors, and provincial chairmen. Also invited as KBL convention delegates are all KBL municipal mayors and chairmen, KBL provincial and city associations of barangay councils federation presidents; KBL provincial and city Kabataang Barangay [barangay youth organization] [KB] federation presidents, KBL sangguniang pampook [regional consultative body] and lupang tagapagpaganap neighbors [neighborhood committees] of region 9 and 12, KBL provincial vice governors and city mayors. Others invited are elective members of every sangguniang panglalawigan [provincial consultative body] and sangguniang panglungsod [city consultative body] designated by provincial and city committees, former provincial governors and city mayors and former members of congress and senate who are KBL supporters and members in good standing.

For Metro Manila, invited to the KBL national convention are the following: KBL municipal mayors, ABC and KB federation presidents, and former municipal mayors who are KBL supporters and members in good standing.

Meantime, the KBL program committee met to map out preparations for the proclamation on 11 December of the KBL presidential standard-bearer. The committee includes Deputy Prime Minister Jose Rono, presidential executive assistant Juan Tuvera, Information Minister Gregorio Cendana, Public Works and Highways Deputy Commissioner (Albert Canlas), and Batasan Secretary General Antonion de Guzman.

SUPREME COURT SETS DEADLINE FOR FILING PETITIONS

HK060625 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Monday is the deadline for both sides in the pending court suits on the snap election to submit their positions to the Supreme Court. The groups of lawyers and other citizens have filed separate motions with the high tribunal questioning the legality of the snap poll. The Supreme Court itself will hear the petitions in open session on December 17. This report by Beth Marcelo Santos:

[Begin recording] The first of these petitions was filed last Tuesday by the Philippine Bar Association. A tenth petition was filed today by the Lakas ng Bayan coalition. It was not immediately included in the court's deliberations. Petitioners question the Batasan's authority to call for the special poll and the validity of the president's resignation, which is the basis for the special election. Named respondents were the Comelec, the national treasurer and the government's printing office. The petitioners seek not only a ruling on the law's constitutionality but also an order that will temporarily restrain respondents from enforcing said law. [end recording]

Petitions To Be Heard 17 Dec

HK060319 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court has given due course to the ten petitions seeking to stop the holding of the February 7 special presidential and vice presidential election. The high court set the petitions for hearing on December 17 and directed the Commission on Elections, the National Treasury, the Budget Ministry and the Commission on Audit to answer the petitions. The petitions seek the nullification of Cabinet Bill No. 7 which provides for the holding of the snap polls. In an unprecedented move, the Supreme Court also asked Member of Parliament Arturo Tolentino to appear as a friend of the court and to submit in writing his views on the special polls. Tolentino is one of the arch critics of the special elections. The petitioners have charged that the holding of the special polls will violate the constitution.

REASONING CITED FOR DELAYING LOCAL ELECTIONS

HK050942 Quezon City WE FORUM in English 26 Nov-2 Dec 85 p 4

[By Butch Fernandez]

[Text] After assuring the nation that snap presidential polls will finally be held on Feb 7 next year, President Marcos doused cold water on efforts of some oppositionists to synchronize local elections with the presidential elections in May. Instead the President announced the local polls may be rescheduled. Implied reasons given for the "delay" were to give the economy enough time to recover from the huge spending required by the national polls and to give the Comelec [Commission on Elections] enough time to prepare for a new election in one year.

Earlier, the President had repeatedly insisted that he could never join the national and local polls because Marcos is "the sole issue" and that he did not want local issues to muddle up the national issues. But oppositionists in the Batasan say the "real" reason behind Mr Marcos' wanting to run alone and not have local officials run with him in synchronized elections is that the President and his partymates "cannot afford" to allow the opposition to get organized on a nationwide plane as would happen should the opposition be forced to put up local slates to beat KBL bets in every city or province in case they decide to coincide local and national elections. They added that should Mr Marcos run alone, the local opposition leaders would not feel obliged to get organized and fight the local KBL "man for man" but instead may opt to join the boycott of the polls intending to conserve logistics and resources for what to the local leaders is "bigger" fight -- the local elections.

The opposition leaders have claimed that Mr Marcos all along had no intention of really synchronizing elections since it would force him to bare his preferences for local leadership to the discomfiture, certainly, of those who would not be chosen. Chagrined and dismayed by their not having been chosen official KBL bets, these local aspirants would naturally lose interest in helping those who they feel usurped positions that could well have been theirs "if only Marcos could have seen the light." As it is, the oppositionists see Mr Marcos promising every KBL aspirant for local posts that they would make good candidates for the KBL line-up "if" they would all work to get him reelected.

With the KBL mayors having been in their position as long as Mr Marcos, some having served in office longer than the President, it is but fair to surmise that a considerable number of their constituents "had enough of their antics," one local oppositionist said.

Nagging issues like uncollected garbage, rutted and potholed city roads, graft and corruption, unexplained wealth, inadequate health services and other equally damning arguments against incumbent local leaders all point to an overwhelming demand for genuine change by the governed. In the face of these damnable local issues, Mr Marcos indeed cannot afford to run alongside his local henchmen as is the wish of those who want to unseat them in one fell swoop so as to give a chance to the others to be in office.

The announced decision to "delay" local polls for some two weeks may have given the incumbents the proverbial "new lease" on their terms of office but to the opposition aspirants it has merely "prolonged the agony of our long suffering people."

If Mr Marcos indeed wishes to make amends and atone for the "sins" of his long administration, then the challenge is for him to call snap synchronized elections to give the people the chance to choose new leaders from top to bottom, i.e. from the president down to the lowly barangay tanod.

MP Mel Lopez, a declared mayoralty aspirant in Manila and one of the original proponents of the synchronized elections for national and local posts, declared that it would be to the best interest of the country if the snap polls will include mayors, vice mayors, and councilmen since the political exercise would be less costly." "General elections is the answer," said another Manila solon Joselito Atienza (opposition), "if the government is serious in regaining its lost credibility among the people."

MARCOS TO REORGANIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFTER POLL

HK060344 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 5 Dec 85 p 20

[Text] President Marcos yesterday said a reorganization will be done in the lower echelon or local level of the government after the snap elections. Marcos stressed that the reorganization will include provinces, towns and city officials. "The reorganization is aimed to improve public service at the local levels," the President pointed out. He said he has decided to initiate such reorganization because of reports that government workers who are supposed to be in close contact with the people are not performing well enough. Marcos announced his planned reorganization during a meeting with provincial governors and city mayors of Region 7 in Malacanang.

In another announcement, the President reiterated his invitation to foreign groups and observers particularly media to observe the forthcoming snap elections. The Malacanang invitation is in relation to the present U.S. Congress plan to send observers during the preparation for the special presidential elections scheduled for Feb. 7. The statement said: "We view this move by the U.S. Congress as a response to an earlier invitation of the Philippines for observers from the United States and other countries to monitor the conduct of the elections." However, the statement stressed that, as earlier stated by Marcos, the Philippine Government will not "brook interference from anyone in the conduct of this political exercise." The statement said it has been a practice of the government to invite foreign observers in the past political exercises including the 1984 Batasan elections and "there is no reason to deviate from this policy."

Marcos also approved yesterday the granting of one-month yearend bonus to national and local government officials and employees. The President said there is a need to grant the bonus to enable government personnel to meet additional expenses during the Christmas season.

To implement the granting of the yearend bonus, Marcos issued Executive Order No. 1070 which will benefit 1,041,507 government personnel and will involve some P1.165 billion. The employees concerned are those in the regular payroll as well as those serving in contractual, casual and temporary capacities.

BATASAN ADMITS 11 NEW SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

HK040755 Manila METRO MANILA TIMES in English 3 Dec 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] The membership of the Batasang Pambansa grew last night with the admission into the legislature of 11 new sectoral members appointed by President Marcos. Admitted were six representatives from the youth sector, two from the industrial sector, and three from the agricultural labor sector. Their appointments were transmitted to the Batasan yesterday by Minister Juan C. Tuvera, Presidential Executive Assistant.

Appointed to represent the youth sector were: Armando P. Aguja, Jr, and Roberto V. Antonio, representing Luzon; Rommel C. Canete, the Visayas; Nasser S. Mustafa, Mindanao; Edward Y. Chua and Maria Victoria Guevarra-Calderon, at large. The appointees for the industrial labor sector were Eulogio Lerum and Ruben O. De Ocampo. Named representatives for the agricultural sector were: Luis M. Taruc and Jose L. Bico for Luzon and Flores Bayot representing the Visayas. The new sectoral representatives were scheduled late last night to take their oath of office before Speaker Nicanor Y. Yniguez before the adjournment of the Batasan session.

1983 PROJECT SUPPORTS REPORTS OF MARCOS' ILLNESS

HK061614 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 6 Dec 85 p 16

[Text] A government financial institution put up emergency cash amounting to P45 million for Malacanang Palace in the last five months of 1983. Bulk of the money went to the importation and setting up of high-technology machineries to clean the air around the presidential palace from pollutants deemed risky to the President Marcos health, a BUSINESS DAY source disclosed.

The cash extended was booked as advances to the Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH) for the "urgent repair, renovation and expansion of facilities" of the President's official residence. BUSINESS DAY sources, however, disclosed that the cash advances were not recorded in the ministry's books of accounts, and had not been supported by documents. This had prevented the government financial institution from being repaid by the MPWH, which had promised through a letter by its minister that the institution's cash advances will be reimbursed. The institution's reimbursement for the Malacanang project would amount to only P36 million since the P10 million it advanced for the project was classified as "contribution" under its expense account. The sources said however, that the MPWH made the first and only payment to the financial institution amounted to only P20 million only by October this year. The checks amounting to P45 million for the project were remitted to an architect close to First Lady Imelda R. Marcos. The funds for the project were remitted by the financial institution in three P5 million and two 10 million checks starting July 18, 1983. The last check was remitted Oct. 10, 1983.

The cash advances were irregular, since the government financial institutions are not tasked by government to finance any of the national government's expenditures. The sources disclosed that the MPWH could not fund the Malacanang project since its budget at that time was already depleted. The government financial institution was tasked to put up the cash required because of the "urgent" health requirements of the President. The state financial institution had to put up the cash despite its liquidity problems which already had forced it during that year to unload its holdings of government securities at huge losses. The hurried financing for the Malacanang project would seem to lend credibility to reports that Marcos had been seriously ill during the last months of 1983, particularly in August when former Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. was shot. The U.S. newspaper WASHINGTON POST had reported two months ago that Marcos was suffering from systemic Lupus erythematosus, a disease that affects the body's cellular organs, particularly the kidneys. Information Minister Gregorio S. Cendana however denied the report, saying that "this is the same fantastic claims the American media peddled in 1983, and again in 1984, that the President was seriously ill, on the verge of death."

'SWEEPING' REORGANIZATION OF ARMED FORCES BEGINS

HK041623 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 4 Dec 85 pp 1, 4

[By Vicente Tanedo and Daniel Florida]

[Text] The "sweeping" reorganization of the armed forces started yesterday with the replacement of navy chief Rear Adm. Simron Alejandro by Commodore Brillante Ochoco of the coast guard and the reassignment of 60 other key officers of the military. There was no word on plans for Alejandro. But Malacanang earlier announced that he and Maj. Gen. Prospero Olivas, Metrocom [Metropolitan Command] chief, had signified willingness to be considered for retirement.

President Marcos met yesterday with the Board of Generals and Colonels which is helping the President in the military reorganization plans. The President told them that the revamp will affect all top or key positions of the military organization and will involve the retirement or reassignment of 50 senior officers, among them 24 extendeed generals, including Gen. Fabian C. Ver, armed forces chief of staff. But, the President stressed, that the replacements will depend upon the availability of younger officers to take over. "If there are none, we shall immediately train replacements," the President said.

The President ordered Ver to submit a list of officers to be retired or reassigned in his capacity as head of the board. During the meeting, the President lauded Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos for his impressive achievements as acting chief of staff during Ver's leave, including the reduction of armed forces losses in the counter-insurgency drive. The loss ratio is now nine to one in favor of the armed forces. The President also mentioned as among Ramos' achievements, the buildup of a 31,500 Ranger-trained troops as a result of improved training, the efficient and judicious use of the P507 million reserve fund for the purpose of strengthening the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], the marked improvement of discipline through earnest action, including the amendment of the disciplinary system, the establishment of disciplinary barracks and prompt attention on human rights cases through special action committees.

The President noted that Ramos was pressed into the assignment as acting chief of staff at a difficult and challenging time for the country and the military.

"The hallmarks of your 13 months at the helm have been to renew public confidence in our military forces, strengthen morale and improve capabilities to insure peace and national security," the President told Ramos in a letter.

The other planned "movements" in the military organization:

Maj. Gen. Delfin Castro, Southern Command [Southcom] chief, will be relieved as commander of Regional Unified Command [RUC] 9 by Brig. Gen. Jose Magno who will become deputy commander of the Southcom in a concurrent capacity. The command will be reinforced and revitalized to oversee armed forces command and control in the whole of Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Isidoro de Guzman will replace Magno as commander of RUC 3.

Commodore Liberato L. Lazo will replace Ochoco as Coast Guard commandant.

Navy Capt. George D. Templo will replace Lazo as commander of the naval forces in the South. (A Navy captain is equivalent to a colonel in the ground or air force.)

Commodore Serapio Taccad will take over the Western Command which is now under Commodore Ismael Aparri. Aparri has been reassigned to command the Sealift Amphibious Command in Cavite.

Navy Capt. Alfredo Protacio will be relieved as chief of the Naval Support Command and reassigned to take charge of special projects.

Capt. Rogelio Dayan will take over as chief of the Naval Support Command.

The other officers affected by the changes in assignments were not identified. Ver, however, said they include some 20 PC [Philippine Constabulary] provincial commanders.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the President Marcos directed General Olivas to resume his duties as deputy PC chief and commanding general of the PC Metrocom, and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio to reassume his post as Aviation Security Command chief.

Ver Continues Revamp

HK060420 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 5 Dec 85 p 19

[Text] Armed Forces chief of staff Gen Fabian C. Ver yesterday announced the re-assignment of 46 key military officers in the on-going revamp of the AFP. He also announced the release of P280 million to upgrade pay and allowances of soldiers and retirees. Ver said he secured the approval of President Marcos for the reassignment of the 46 key officers and the release of funds the day after he was acquitted by the Sandiganbayan in the Aquino assassination case and his subsequent reinstatement to the top military post. President Marcos announced the other day the reorganization of the entire command structure of the Armed Forces to improve its effectiveness in the anti-insurgency campaign. Affected by the reassignment were 20 provincial commanders, nine battalion commanders, five brigade commanders, three wing commanders, three metropolitan district commanders, two task force commanders and four other key officers.

The released funds will be used in the increase in combat pay of soldiers from P120 a month to P240 effective last April 1. All military and civilian employees will also receive yearend bonuses equivalent to one month's basic pay.

Reassignments in the posts of provincial commanders are as follows: Pangasinan -- Col. Venencio Duque Jr., replacing Col. Elpidio Ablang; Ifugao -- Maj. Juanito Flores, replacing Lt. Col. Cresencio Villanueva; Sultan Kudarat -- Maj. Nicolas Ularte, replacing Lt. Col. Severino Villanueva; Sorsogon -- Lt. Col. Rogelio Regalado, replacing Lt. Col. Rodolfo Garcia; Masbate -- Maj. Vicente Neptuno, replacing Col. Dictador Alquiza; Camiguin Island -- Lt. Col. Macausar Unte, replacing Lt. Col. Ruben Cabagnet; Misamis Oriental -- Col. Cesar Manaig, replacing Col. Roberto Lastimosa; Bukidnon -- Col. Roberto Lastimosa, replacing Col. Cesar Manaig; Zamboanga del Sur -- Col. Adam Jimenez, replacing Lt. Col. Jesus Guerzon; Camarines Sur -- Col. Alberto Quaioit, replacing Col. Edgardo Avenina; Aklan -- Lt. Col. G. Coronel, replacing Col. Orzille Gabuna; Davao del Sur -- Lt. Col. Salvador Daang, replacing Col. Patricio Madayag; Antique -- Lt. Col. Alfredo Daluyaya, replacing Lt. Col. Vicente Dumpit; Bohol -- Lt. Col. Jose Ayap, replacing Lt. Col. Jesus Magno; Eastern Samar -- Maj. Mario Agda, replacing Col. Ibarra Mariano; Zamboanga del Norte -- Lt. Col. Jesus Guerzon, replacing Col. Ruben Avendan; Albay -- Col. Cesar Aberilla, replacing Col. Jovencio Sales; Agusan del Norte -- Lt. Col. Ruben Cabagnet, replacing Col. Emeterio Collado; Lanao del Sur -- Lt. Col. Maunara Lantud; and Surigao del Norte -- Lt. Col. Renato Parendes.

Brig. Gen. Felicisimo Suarez took over as chief of engineers, replacing Brig. Gen. Recaredo Albano, who has retired. The deputy base commander of Clark Air Base is Col. Romeo David, who replaced Brig. Gen. Augustus Paiso, who was reassigned to another post. Col. Gumersindo Yap also replaced Brig. Gen. Cesar Tapia as commanding officer of the Philippine Army's second division, second brigade, while Col. Alejandro Galido took over as commanding officer of the Army's third brigade, third infantry division which was formerly headed by Brig. Gen. Antonio Palafox.

MARCOS SAYS VER, RAMOS MAY BE RETIRED SOON

HK070241 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0230 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] The Philippines Armed Forces' top generals, Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver and his Vice Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Fidel Ramos, will be affected soon by the ongoing reorganization of the Philippine military command. President Marcos said yesterday both Generals Ver and Ramos may be retired, or one of them may be retained and the other given a civilian government post. Mr Marcos disclosed this in his talks with visiting U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Admiral Donald Hays. He said the current reorganization of the Philippine Armed Forces is nearing the command level of the two highest-ranking Philippine military leaders.

DEFENSE MINISTRY APPROVES NEW CHDF GUIDELINES

HK040807 Manila METRO Manila Times in English 2 Dec 85 pp 1, 5

[By Arnold Atadero]

[Text] The long-awaited revamp of the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) program has begun with the approval by defense ministry officials of a new set of guidelines proposed by a 15-man study committee headed by Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff for operations (J-3).

Administrative Control over the CHDF is exercised by Defense Minister for Home Defense Jose M. Crisol.

Approval of the initial proposals will clear the way for major changes in the CHDF program, such as the following:

- Brawner will be the program director of the CHDF.
- AFP regional commanders will be responsible for the success or failure of the CHDF program in their regions.
- The operating unit commander who may be PC [Philippine Constabulary] provincial commander, Philippine Army battalion commander or Marine brigade or battalion commander will be the most senior AFP officer whose units the CHDF will be attached to for control purposes. These units will organize AFP control teams composed of AFP regular troops to directly command and control CHDF units.
- AFP control teams will be organized for every CHDF company. Each will be composed of regular soldiers of not more than one officer and nine enlisted men. These control teams will be integrated into the CHDF organization and will be designated as control teams of the AFP. Under new guidelines, a CHDF unit may conduct operations that are defensive in nature and within the geographical limits of its jurisdiction.

CHDF units are prohibited to operate independently of the local security force in the area. CHDF personnel are also banned from establishing and man [as published] checkpoints, but they may assist regular troops manning authorized checkpoints. The guidelines also specify that the members of a CHDF unit must be legitimate residents of the community to be served by them. No CHDF battalions will be formed unless circumstances absolutely warrant it and only upon specific authorization by the minister of defense. Activation of CHDF companies and the assignment of individual members to their units must be done only upon orders of the AFP regional commanders.

Such orders, however, will be subject to review by the defense minister. All CHDF units will be attached to specific AFP field units for effective control and supervision. The guidelines, also say each CHDF squad will have a designated squad leader. Each platoon will have a platoon commander to be designated by the head of the AFP control team from among the CHDF squad leaders. The government spends P136,710 a month for one battalion of CHDF personnel compared to the AFP's P1.1-million budget for one battalion of regular troops.

Proposals To Be Finalized

HK090805 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Proposals for the restructuring of the integrated civilian home defense program will be finalized this week. The proposals will be finalized by the study committee created by the Defense Ministry. The proposals are expected to upgrade the effectiveness of the Civilian Home Defense Forces [CHDF] in providing communities with indigenous protection from insurgency and other forms of violence and lawlessness. The proposals also seek to prevent the CHDF from being used as private armies by political overlords and other influential people.

MILITARY ABUSES REPORTED IN NUEVA VIZCAYA

HK030445 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 25 Nov 85 p 9

[By Gene Orejana]

[Text] Solano, Nueva Vizcaya -- A cause-oriented group has expressed indignation and alarm over what they described as a "new wave of repression and military abuses" directed at the civilian populace, particularly the farmers of the plains and Ifugao settlers of the Cordillera foothills. The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Nueva Vizcaya (BAYAN-NV) chapter said the acts include mass arrests, torture and manhandling, unwarranted arrests and detention, illegal searches and confiscation, and coercive interrogation. Residents of Bayombong, Solano, Bagabag, Villaverde, and Ambaguio are allegedly being harassed and intimidated by local authorities, Bayan said. It added that the provincial Constabulary command under Col. Rufo Pulido has conducted mass arrests in the barrios of Ipil Conig and Cabuaan in Bayombong.

Publicized by the military as "mass surrender of New People's Army (NPA) regulars and supporters," Bayan said the military rounded up some 1,000 barrio folks in Communal and San Juan of Solano, Lbung and Sawmill of Villaverde, and Careb of Bagabag. The group said the round-up, conducted from August to September this year, "arrested, summoned, and forced" barrio residents to admit connections with the communists. Residents were also forced to attend public meetings dubbed by the PCINP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] command as "mass surrender."

Constabulary detachments are regularly conducting searches on residents going to and from the barrios of Masoc, Bayombong, Udiawan, Solano, and Villaverde, Bayan pointed out, adding that night curfews are restricting population movements. They added that INCP elements also conduct searches of civilians especially during market days, illegally confiscating goods and limiting the quality of people's purchase at the pretext of controlling resources for barrios suspected to be NPA strongholds. Bayan further said threats of forced evacuation, strafing, and the murder of suspected NPA supporters are spreading, sowing fear among the residents.

Random firing of firearms is a "daily fare" among the Constabulary, police, and militia-men in Masoc, Bayombong, and the Nueva Vizcaya and Ifugao boundary, Bayan reported. The group also identified five farmers who were "arrested, detained, and allegedly manhandled" by their captors as: Domingo Linhing, 28, Ifugao resident of Bo, Ocapan; Maximiano Sumabat, 27, Ilocano farmer of San Juan, Solano; Narciso Marquez, 52; Rogelio Marquez, 23, a forestry student of Nueva Vizcaya SIT; and two unnamed youths of the Gadiano family.

ISABELA RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF AIR RAIDS, ABUSES

HK010332 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 29 Nov 85 p 14

[Text] Baguio City -- Residents of San Mariano, Isabela have complained to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and acting Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, against abuses by soldiers and another raid last Sept. 16 by two jets in their town. Copies of the open letter, written in Tagalog, were given to Baguio media by the Northern Luzon-Human Rights Organization (NL-HRO).

The signatories said that on Sept 16 when the air raids happened in Sitio Dicabugao, Barangay Pili, there were no New People's Army members in their area but merely civilians cutting trees to earn a living. They said they have resorted to cutting trees instead of bananas, their usual means of livelihood, because of the lack of bananas. The residents also related two helicopters strafed Barangaya Weg, Macayocao and Balagan, also in San Mariano town. They said the civilians who were out cleaning their rice fields almost got hit by the machinegun bullets.

They also related the arrest of four barrio officials of Bgy. [Barangays] Iduhan last Oct 7 allegedly by 133rd PC [Philippine Constabulary] Company and members of the Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF). Since then, they claimed they have not yet been released. They identified them as barangays captain Luis Gabriel and barangay councilmen Rober Bawi, Arturo Bunagan and Juan Managuilod. As a result of the military operation, they said, the residents are now afraid to go out to work because "we are afraid of being bombed or strafed." They described the military activities as excessive and cruel.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE TO HOLD MEETING ON BASES

HK050453 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The National Defense College of the Philippines will tomorrow hold a 1-day multisectoral conference. The conference will tackle the Philippine military bases problem with participants drawn from four major sectors. The meeting will focus on [word indistinct] analyses of the current and vital issues and problems arising from the operations of the bases. Police recommendations coming from the conference will be formulated for submission and consideration to decision-makers. The discussions will start at 8 o'clock in the morning at the National Defense College at the Fort Bonifacio grounds in Makati.

MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD MEETS AT U.S. SUBIC BASE

HK060337 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The R.P. [Republic of the Philippines] -U.S. mutual defense board met at a U.S. facility in Subic Bay in Zambales. However the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] did not give details of what was discussed during the monthly meeting, but Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver said in an interview with newsmen last Wednesday that among the topic to be discussed during the meeting was the delay in the delivery of the \$60 million worth of military aid by the American Government. The \$60 million military aid is provided for under the Philippine-American military bases agreement when the U.S. Government agreed to pay \$900 million to the Philippine Government for the use of military bases in the country for a period of five years. Admiral Ronald (Hayes), U.S. Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. co-chairman of the board, presided over yesterday's meeting.

SEC SAYS U.S. BASES HAMPER REGULATION EFFORTS

HK051046 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 27 Nov 85 p 7

[Text] United States military authorities are hampering efforts of the Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] to regulate the operation of foreign corporations doing business in American bases here.

SEC Chairman Manuel Abello yesterday said that American commanders of the Subic Naval and Clark Air Bases have yet to submit a list of foreign firms operating in the military installations more than a year after the SEC made the request.

The U.S. military wants to raise the question, which SEC official said is a mere regulatory issue, to a high-level bilateral panel implementing the newly-renegotiated Military Bases Agreement. "They want us to negotiate," SEC Associate Commissioner Jesus Valdes said, "as if the issue is subject to negotiation."

Following the recognition of Philippine sovereignty over the bases under the new agreement, Valdes said, the Philippine Government clearly has a right to regulate the activities of these foreign business enterprises. Licensing of foreign corporation doing business in the country has been made more stringent by the New Corporation Code in order to protect the interest of their local creditors and suppliers.

Foreign firms, for instance, are required to post a P100,000 bond with the SEC before they can do business here. Every year they are assessed an additional 5 per cent of gross earnings over P5 million. The money deposited with the SEC is held in trust to answer for possible defaults by foreign firms on local obligations. The money is given back whenever they stop doing business in the country.

Among foreign firms operating in the bases are giant U.S. construction companies, whose business activities are expected to intensify with the programmed expansion of the military facilities. The expansion program is worth over \$1 billion.

MINDANAO ARMY UNITS RECEIVE U.S.-MADE TRUCKS

HK030555 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Ninety-nine more brand-new trucks have been sent this week to various AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] units in Mindanao. The U.S.-made M-35 trucks were procured from the U.S. under the military credit sales program. AFP deputy chief for logistics Serapio Martellano said that the trucks [word indistinct] the mobility of medical units in fighting dissidents.

PRESS VIEWS VERDICT IN BENIGNO AQUINO CASE

'No Choice' But To Acquit

HK040829 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Dec 85 p 4

[Editorial: "The Sandiganbayan Decision"]

[Text] To most lawyers and others in the legal profession, the Sandiganbayan decision clearing all the 26 accused in the Aquino-Galman case did not come as a surprise. As the trial progressed, it became increasingly evident that there was really nothing that could be adduced from the mass of testimony offered during the trial that could definitely and incontrovertibly link any of the accused to the crimes imputed to them. The Sandiganbayan was left with no choice but to decide the way it did. And its decision no doubt was made with the full knowledge of three justices that it would most certainly evoke an angry reaction from people who had been led to view the whole case from a purely emotional standpoint, not to mention those who had wanted to make political capital out of the case.

It would be inaccurate to draw a parallel between the Sandiganbayan decision, which was based wholly on evidence presented in court, and the investigation conducted by the Agrava board, whose task was principally to gather the testimony of witnesses and other likely evidence and to ascertain whether there was ground for possible indictments. The fact that the board members and the chairman differed in their appreciation of the whole case, to the extent of disagreeing on which persons to indict and on what specific charges to indict them, was a strong indication that they themselves were uncertain of the strength of the evidence in their hands. Their refusal to take part in the prosecution of the case, which offered a unique opportunity for them to bring their expertise and knowledge of the case to bear on the final judgment of the court, would also seem to bolster this indication.

As it turned out, the Sandiganbayan found no evidence directly linking the top military officials accused in the case to the crimes, either as principals or accessories. The court also gave credence to the testimony of the soldier-escorts and disinterested witnesses as against the conflicting statements of prosecution witnesses. Indeed it would have been illogical if, after clearing the top military officials, the court declared the soldier-escorts guilty, for this would have foisted the incredible and fantastic assumption that the soldiers, of their own volition, had agreed to a conspiracy to kill Benigno Aquino Jr and Rolando Galman.

It took a rare kind of courage for the Sandiganbayan to have stood its ground, as it did, on the rule of law, in the face of the emotional upsurge that had all but beclouded the real facts and threatened to thwart the ends of justice in this case.

Opinions vs. Facts

HK041505 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 4 Dec 85 p 4

[Editorial: "After the Verdict"]

[Text] What is being conveniently glossed over by instant experts and prophets of doom who are tripping over themselves denouncing the Sandiganbayan verdict is the fact that it is too late and too costly for all of us to indulge in our trials of the accused. And whether one agrees or disagrees with the verdict will not detract from two fundamental questions.

One, in both the Agrava fact-finding board and in the Sandiganbayan trial itself, there was the frenzied search for witnesses, there was an appeal for all good men to come to the aid of the seekers of truth. And this search even transcended our own borders, in the fervent hope that justice, not only for the victims but also for a nation torn asunder by the unfortunate assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. would prevail. There were comments when the search seemed to have borne fruit, there were times when hopes for such a triumph of justice blazed in the hearts of all truth-loving men. But, in the harsh realities, many of these hopes were shattered; many of the claims failed to hurdle the basic tests of truth.

Which leads us to the second question. Like in journalism, the Sandiganbayan trial held facts as sacrosanct. This is the cornerstone of both pursuits: facts are sacred, while opinions are free, to quote a commentator. Hence, while the opinions were, and are, freely dispensed, they simply cannot be labelled or considered facts. And many of the post-mortems now circulating are simply opinions, opinions which cannot stand the test of scrutiny, not only by the courts but also by the common tao [man] himself, who cannot but realize that opinions indeed are many and diverse, but truth is one and indispensable. There are simply too many problems affecting country and people, there are simply too factors which divide us all, and labelling opinions as facts cannot but exacerbate these problems, in the same way that inciting people to accept such opinions as facts cannot but bode ill for all of us.

Rule of Law

HK041513 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 4 Dec 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The Ruling"]

[Text] If only for the fact that it was the only case in memory to spawn a petition alleging mistrial, the Aquino-Galman case before the Sandiganbayan should be considered controversial. In many respects, it was also a historic case. It was the first case that in the view of the President deserved a fact-finding inquiry before indictment and trial. It was the first case to involve no less than the chief of staff of the Armed Forces. Some observers called it the trial of the century. It should be called the case of the century, because the trial was only an incident of the case. In some respects, the trial turned out to be an ordinary one. It did not plow any new legal ground and if we remember correctly neither did the fact-finding inquiry conducted by the Agrava Board. It merely involved an appreciation of the evidence, and the truth is the prosecution was not able to introduce evidence, of guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

What implications do the case hold for the future? Nobody can tell. Opposition circles are likely to hold protest rallies in the next few days. But beyond that? Beyond that is the safe guideline to which the majority of the people adhere -- the rule of law. There cannot be a saner guidelines as the republic struggles against a host of economic and political problems. The rule cannot be otherwise if the nation is not to fly apart. In the days ahead, the people should abide by the rule of law, and while they cannot tell what the future holds for them, to bet on the rule of law is to shape the future the way they want it to be.

'Triumph' of Judicial System

HK041521 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 4 Dec 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The Sandigan Verdict"]

[Text] More than the acquittal of all 26 accused in the Aquino-Galman murder case, the Sandiganbayan decision was a triumph of the country's criminal justice system. Whatever others may say about the verdict (and they are bound to say a lot more), it remains a fact that the court made its decision solely on the basis of the evidence at hand and the laws applicable to the case. That the court refused to be swayed by the surge of emotion and polemics that accompanied the long trial is a tribute to the firmness and courage of the three men in judicial robes. It was more than a reassurance that our courts of law could still be counted upon to serve the cause of justice. In acquitting all 26 accused, the Sandiganbayan may have an unpopular decision, considering the mood of the hour. But the Sandiganbayan could not have done otherwise without doing violence to the rules of criminal law and Jurisprudence in the face of overwhelming facts pointing to the innocence of the accused. The prosecution evidence certainly could not support a verdict of guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

Two prosecution witness, one claiming she saw a soldier pointing a gun at Aquino's head on the plane's stairway, and the other stating it was impossible for Aquino to have been shot on the tarmac were about the most damaging testimonies against the defendants. But the testimony of the first was refuted by scientific findings, one of which was that there was no blood either in the back of Aquino's shirt or on the stairway. The account of the second witness was dismissed as mere opinion and, therefore, did not hold much weight.

It must be admitted that the two-year-old case had stirred so much controversy, even bitterness and hate that people had begun to doubt whether it was still possible to hold a fair trial. This much the Sandiganbayan had taken cognizance of with the observation that even before the trial began, "the defendants had already been pronounced guilty in politically-inspired rallies, in coffee shops and in beerhouses." In short, the case had become an emotionally-charged political trial. Indeed, public faith in our judicial process had been badly shaken. But the Sandiganbayan proved itself equal to the challenge and thus assured its survival. The best that can be said now that the trial is over is that the country's judicial institutions have remained intact and unperturbed.

DECISION IN AQUINO CASE 'FOREGONE CONCLUSION'

HK040851 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Dec 85 p 6

[Column by Jesus Bigornia: "Acquittal a Foregone Conclusion"]

[Excerpt] Acquittal of General Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff and 25 others of a charge of conspiracy in the 1983 assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. was a foregone conclusion. A Supreme Court ruling disallowing the admission by the Sandiganbayan, the trial court, of the general's testimony before the Agrava Fact-Finding Board as evidence against him virtually clinched the exoneration of the general and his co-accused. Indeed, the Sandiganbayan decision was anticlimactic.

Many Filipinos, including the victim's own family, cannot or will not accept the decision of the Sandiganbayan. They will, each in his time, go to their graves in the firm belief that the airport slaying, committed virtually before the world's television cameras, was a political murder. They will not accept the suggestion that a hired gunman shot the returning exile in the head and was in turn felled by a complement of Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) mustered to protect Aquino.

However, a court of law has spoken. Because the prosecution failed to establish conspiracy without the Ver testimony before the Agrava Board, the Sandiganbayan was left no option but clear the chief of staff of the charge. Under the laws of the Philippines, neither the family nor the state may appeal a judgment exonerating the accused. General Ver is now free to resume the post of chief of staff which he vacated during the pendency of the case.

The Aquino assassination has caused the nation much grief, even injury. It has divided the nation, one side blaming the Marcos administration for the murder, the other defending the President and his men as having sought mightily to prevent the fatal incident. Meantime, it precipitated the country's plunge into its most severe economic crisis from which the nation continues to suffer. There is a time for bickering as there is a time for forgiving. Those who have suffered most from this tragedy, it appears they have long since made peace with themselves. If they cannot forgive, at least they have suffered in silence. For this they deserve the nation's admiration.

VALENCIA NOTES U.S. REACTION TO AQUINO VERDICT

HK050357 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0130 GMT 5 Dec 85

["Analysis of the News" by Teodoro Valencia]

[Text] The reactions to the Sandiganbayan verdict in the Aquino-Galman case coming from the Sandiganbayan really make me sad because it would reveal that the Americans really had no intention of exporting democracy. Because no less than the secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, commenting on the Sandiganbayan verdict, said it was unfortunate because, in his view, the Agrava report was more reliable and he was rather disappointed that the 26 accused were declared innocent by the Sandiganbayan, forgetting entirely that Philippine criminal procedure is patterned after the American. We derived our rules of court for civil procedure or civil law tradition from the Spaniards [words indistinct]. Any students of law would have to study the Spanish mortgage law and the Spanish civil code. But criminal procedure we borrowed from the United States. Our criminal procedure in this country is more or less patterned after the American, with the one exception that we don't have the jury system, we have a judge.

As Mr Shultz should be told, nobody can be convicted in a criminal proceeding unless there is preponderant truth beyond reasonable doubt that the accused is guilty of the crime as charged. The Sandiganbayan very clearly stated in the positive portion of the decision that there was no proof beyond reasonable doubt to establish the guilt of any of the parties accused in the killing of ex-senator Aquino. That being so, the State Department should have been told: Under the circumstances, the Sandiganbayan passed its verdict. But for Mr Shultz, who is secretary of state of no less than the United States, who was solid for democracy, to have said that there was a comparison or a contrast between the finding of the Agrava board and the Sandiganbayan was for him to have admitted, as he did admit, that he does not understand the difference between a court of law and a fact-finding board.

The Sandiganbayan could never have convicted anybody unless there was proof beyond reasonable doubt. On the other hand, the Agrava board could have come to any conclusion based merely on the impressions of the members of the court. There was no requirement for the Agrava board to base its conclusion on hard evidence [word indistinct] during the hearing. As a matter of fact, every day we have investigating bodies that are not judicial in character and they come out with decisions that no court of law would sanction.

Of course, the reporters of the American newspapers and wire services may have been responsible for the wrong impression created in the State Department and in the halls of Congress of the United States, because many of these American reporters covering the local scene are not lawyers and they don't understand legal procedures, let alone criminal procedures. It is very clear then that all that the State Department wanted was for President Marcos to obey all the orders or the instructions coming from that end of the Philippine-American partnership.

The Philippines is not yet a colony of the United States. It has not been annexed nor declared a state. And in the meantime, it is my view that this government must function according to our laws, our constitution, our legal procedures. And all that is [words indistinct] for any government in the world to do.

Timing of Verdict

HK050401 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0130 GMT 5 Dec 85

["Analysis of the News" by Teodoro Valencia]

[Text] Again yesterday there was a rumor being floated around in the coffeeshops in the form of a question, and the question was: Why did President Marcos decide to release the verdict of the Sandiganbayan at about this time when the opposition party is about to choose the standard-bearer? One question that was asked was: Did President Marcos expect that there would be an upheaval after the reading of the sentence and that such upheaval would enable him to have a justification for a declaration of martial law to stop the snap election? What a silly conclusion.

Let us not forget that the Sandiganbayan had no choice except to release its verdict after the Supreme Court ruled that it cannot be stopped from proclaiming its verdict. So if the Sandiganbayan postponed the reading of the verdict, it could even surmise just as well that that was the order of President Marcos to postpone the reading of the verdict in order to give time to the [words indistinct] in connection with the snap election. It's a very prickly situation where the opposition gets away with it by reading into anything a presidential order. In other words, as Cory Aquino herself said very recently, it will be up to the president to tell the Supreme Court how to rule in the petition presented by the opposition to declare Cabinet Bill No. 7 unconstitutional. In other words, if the ruling of the Supreme Court were that it is unconstitutional, then according to the Aquino theory, this would be what President Marcos may have told the Supreme Court -- and the opposite could again be true. But if the ruling of the Supreme Court were that this is going to be constitutional ergo, the snap election would continue, it would then again be an order of the president to support him. [as heard]

I think that we should look at this problem from the basis of logic and reason. Otherwise it would be pointless to speculate, based merely on wishful thinking or bias.

BUSINESS DAY ROUNDS UP REACTION TO AQUINO VERDICT

HK041012 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 3 Dec 85 pp 5, 18

[Excerpts] The Sandiganbayan decision acquitting Armed Forces chief Fabian Ver, 24 other soldiers and a civilian in the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr, for all that it was expected, nevertheless elicited shocked and outraged reactions from various sectors in business, politics, labor, the youth and even the military establishment.

Trading went on smoothly in both stock exchanges even as stockbrokers in the Manila Stock Exchange milled around their television sets at the members' lounge during the reading of the decision yesterday morning. What stunned the stockbrokers most was the acquittal of everybody involved in the Aquino-Galman double murder case. They felt and anticipated that some minor military men could at least have been convicted "to show that there was some decency left in the judicial system." Brokers said that whatever the outcome of the Aquino-Galman murder case was already discounted long ago by investors. Yesterday's verdict, they said, did not affect trading patterns of investors since they already made up their minds on their investment strategies long before the results of the Sandigan hearing. More important for stock market players now is the volume of election money that could filter into the stock market next year.

Various lawyers, some of whom tried in a petition to get the Supreme Court to declare the Sandiganbayan proceedings a mistrial, deplored the "callousness" of the decision and regarded the decision as symptomatic of the breakdown of the judicial system. Joker Arroyo, a human rights lawyer, said it was "torture" listening to the Sandiganbayan ruling which he described as a "condemnable, despicable decision." With it, Arroyo said, Marcos and the military have "become Siamese twins -- inseparable, one desperately needing the other to support because both are sinking."

Lawyer Arturo de Castro, one of the lawyers who signed the mistrial petition said: "The decision is an affront to the rule of law in this country. I'm terribly sad, but at this point, there is no additional comment I can make to what we have already filed (in the mistrial petition). We can only leave it to the people to judge whether the government had done rightly or wrongly. History will judge them."

The Philippine Bar Association released this statement:

"The verdict of the Sandiganbayan acquitting all of the accused in the Aquino-Galman double murder case surprises no one and proves the mistrial petition filed with the Supreme Court as prophetic.

"The accused in this case were, in effect, nominal defendants and in fact, proxies for the government.

"The real accused was no less than the government itself. Thus, no informed person could have been under the illusion that a truly impartial verdict would be reached by this (Sandiganbayan) court.

"The people long ago accepted the finding of the Agrava Factfinding Board as to the government's complicity in the killing of Aquino and thus, the decision of the Sandiganbayan had become irrelevant before it was handed down today."

"To the Sandiganbayan, we paraphrase the words of President Marcos addressed to the majority of the Agrava fact-finding board, that is, 'We hope you can live with your conscience after what you have done.'"

Jaime Cardinal Sin said that with the Sandiganbayan decision the government lost an opportunity to regain its credibility with the people. "The flagrant disparity between the conclusions reached by the respected Agrava Board and the decision handed down by the Sandiganbayan, threatens to push our country to the brink of violence and despair. It seems that a historic opportunity to restore the credibility of the government and to satisfy our people's aspirations for truth and justice was lost. As the banners of our people's outrage and frustration are once more unfurled, we need to examine whether reconciliation with the state that is based on mutual trust is still possible."

The military establishment appeared to have taken the decision and its probably repercussions with resignation. One ranking military officer described the mood in the military as one of "wait and see." "The young in the military are steeped in the tradition of obedience and legalism so the tendency is to accept the verdict unqualifiedly. But the military must continue its thrust of improving itself." "I'm glad this is all over. We can put this thing behind us and continue our work." "I accept the decision. It is legal and went through the entire judicial process. Not to accept it would perpetuate continued destabilization of the country. There is no point in not accepting the decision. We have no choice. Those who cannot accept will just have to leave." "Ver can go back to his post anytime. He can stay for as long as he is effective in his job. The revamp of the military can hopefully be effected under Ver."

Said Brig. Gen. Aristeo Ferraren: "My reaction is neutral. That (the verdict) is the prerogative of the Sandiganbayan. I'm sure their verdict must have been based on the submission of evidence."

Elsewhere in government, the reaction was cautious, if not indifferent. Said a Comelec [Commission on Elections] commissioner: "The verdict has nothing to do with the work of the Comelec."

Batasan speaker Nicanor Yniguez stressed the dangers of questioning the decision. "I don't know if the people will be appeased by the Sandiganbayan verdict but we should, as a matter of general principle, abide by the court's decision. Questioning violently the court's decision would be dangerous to the government's stability. It was a decision based on evidence and if you believe in the rule of law, and in the courts of justice, then what is there to quarrel about?"

Said KBL MP Arturo Tolentino: "It would affect the snap elections but I really would not know how much. It depends on how much it would be utilized by the opposition and how much the government can explain that decision."

In fact, the decision's effect on the snap presidential elections scheduled for February 7 next year was very much on everybody's lips, particularly opposition politicians who are expected to make political capital of the people's reaction to the verdict. Said MP Cecilia Munoz-Palma (Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organization]-Quezon City): "Today, Dec. 2, 1985, is a black day in the annals of the Philippine judicial system. All along, after Ninoy (Aquino)'s assassination, the Filipino people knew who was responsible for that dastardly act. With the acquittal of the military men involved, I'm afraid for our people and our country."

"Now, I hope that the snap elections will push through so that all the issues against the President and his administration could be fully brought to the people."

"We were expecting the Sandiganbayan to declare that Ninoy Aquino shot himself. The Sandiganbayan should be abolished. Its verdict today spelled total alienation from the people and the wheels of justice from the country," said Jose Atienza Jr. (LP [Liberal Party]-Manila).

"I think the Sandiganbayan and the government just handed over in a silver platter another election issue to the opposition. The court had to acquit all of the military men accused since if only some of them were convicted, the commander in chief, under the principle of command responsibility would still be held liable for Aquino's assassination," Antonio Gatuslao, independent, Negros Occidental commented.

Unido presidential nominee, Salvador Laurel Jr. said: "It was obvious from the start that the (Sandiganbayan) proceedings were being orchestrated by some unseen power to uphold the military's posture that (Rolando) Galman killed (Benigno) Aquino.

"The Tanodbayan, by its half-hearted prosecution, the Sandiganbayan, by its willingness to be used, and the Supreme Court itself, by condoning the defects of the (Sandiganbayan) trial, all conspired to deliver the guilty parties beyond the reach of the law."

Said assistant Batasan minority floor leader Marcelo Fernan, Pinaghiusa coalition, Cebu City: "The trial of this particular case, for many of our people, demonstrates the absence of the rule of law in our country. Countless evidence were presented to show that the prosecution and the trial court did not behave in the manner they were expected in relation to the case. The Supreme Court's ruling is only likely to reinforce the fading, if not the lack of, faith in the judicial process."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [Bayan] yesterday condemned the Sandiganbayan decision, saying the acquittal of Gen. Ver and his coaccused shows "no justice can ever be truly rendered the victims of (the government's) gross human rights transgressions." In a press statement, Bayan said "there was no mistaking the trend toward... the upholding of the 'Galman as assassin' military theory" starting from the "Agrava Commission's so-called minority report to the Supreme Court's rulings on the case." [quotation marks as received] Saying it was "hopeless" to attain justice under the present regime, Bayan said the "only option left for the Filipino people" is to "intensify their struggles to dismantle the present dictatorship."

Meanwhile, the Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU] said the Sandiganbayan decision "came as no surprise since the labor sector has never expected the government ombudsman to displease the ruling dictatorship." In a press statement, KMU chairman Rolando M. Olalia said the fault lies not only in the Sandiganbayan but also in the entire judicial system which "the Marcos regime has mangled... and tailored to give legality to its immoral rule and justify the plunder of Philippine labor and resources by its imperialist masters."

The KMU also called for broader opposition unity "through militant struggles against the dictatorship" and urged the traditional opposition "not to make political capital out of the acquittal decision purely for its narrow electoral purposes." In the wake of the Sandiganbayan ruling, the KMU said the people's efforts "should be geared towards dislodging the present government...through militant and sustained struggles."

BAYAN PLANS ACTIONS TO PROTEST VER ACQUITTAL

HK051531 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 5 Dec 85 p 10

[Text] The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) [New Nationalist Alliance] will conduct noise barrages and stakeouts in front of military camps and headquarters in major urban centers throughout the country starting tomorrow up to Dec. 10, the 37th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. March-rallies, barricades, and other actions, including a Welgang Bayan (People's Strike) in Negros Occidental on Dec. 9 and 10 will be held. The actions seek to dramatize the protest against the recent acquittal by the Sandiganbayan of Gen. Fabian G. Ver and 25 other accused in the Aquino-Galman double murder case.

Bayan said it will also push for the resignation of President Marcos, abolition of the Preventive Detention Action (PDA), and full restoration of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and synchronized presidential and local elections. The demands are Bayan's three minimum non-negotiable conditions if it is to participate in the coming elections. Bayan said, the exoneration of Ver and his speedy reinstatement as Armed Forces chief of staff bear "grave implications on the state of human rights in the country and on the conduct of the coming elections."

Ver is already leading a major revamp of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). "We view this revamp and Ver's role in it with extreme concern for both are apparently aimed at enhancing the AFP's capabilities at political repression and terrorism and at ensuring victories for the dictatorship in the coming polls," Bayan said. The alliance urged the Filipino people to tighten their unity and prepare for far more brutal on-slaughts. It called on the people to participate in the nationwide noise barrage tomorrow, starting at 5 p.m.

WIDOW OF MARCOS' DOCTOR PRESSES LIBEL SUIT

HK060521 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] The Rizal Provincial Fiscal starts today the preliminary investigation of a libel suit against the MALAYA and ENQUIRER newspapers. The P20-million case was filed by the widow of slain physician Potenciano Baccay, the vice chairman of the Kidney Foundation of the Philippines. The widow said her husband was maligned in articles which came out in the two publications regarding the circumstances of his death. Military authorities earlier said Bacaay was abducted by robbers who broke into his house in Muntinglupa on November 3 and who killed him when they could not find enough cash in the house.

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